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Turkey TD 1 750  
USA US 2 75

# The Guardian

INTERNATIONAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR  
46,446

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

Behind the scenes with Jeremy Isaacs

## Fights at the opera

G2 with European weather



OnLine

## Pepper on the beat

G2 pages 10/13

Why do leaders lie about their health?

## Fit for the job?

G2 pages 4/5



# 'The shame I felt in chains'

Nine months pregnant, Annette was taken from jail to hospital in handcuffs. She spent 10 hours in labour chained to a bed, in the presence of a male and a female officer. The action has been defended by Home Office minister Ann Widdecombe. In a letter passed to the Guardian, Annette describes the pain, shame and degradation she felt at her humiliating treatment.



Annette is led away from the delivery room in shackles

Dear Beverly, I thank you for your letter and would off waste sooner only I have just received it 6th Dec, I would like to say that life here has got easier but since writing to you because off stress I have been ill, as they are short staffed I am lashed up 22 1/2 hours a day just havat even had a bat for 3 days, as it is meals and rooms on Saturday 2nd I went into Robaix I was very down

Worrying anyway I went into labour at 7 o'clock and an ambulance was called I was handcuffed to an officer with not the normal handcuffs but big black ones which are used in top security situations they were heavy and hurt I was devastated please don't say but they

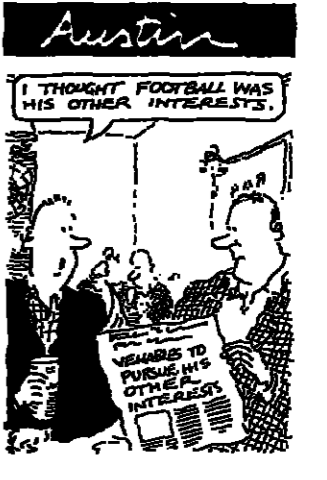
that is what brought my labour on as I received that news on Friday I was taken to Whittington labour ward were I was in early stages of labour two officers chained me to the bed and sat down next to me I asked them to please leave as I was in pain embarrassed crying

Extracts from one of the two letters Annette sent to maternity rights campaigner Beverly Lawrence-Beech

# Venables quits to fight Sugar in the courts

John Duncanson Sports Correspondent

TERRY VENABLES announced yesterday that he will quit as England coach after the 1996 European Championships to concentrate on his legal fight with the Tottenham chairman, Alan Sugar. "The Football Association is deeply disappointed by his decision," said a terse statement read out by the FA spokesman, David Davies, at a hastily arranged press conference yesterday. "but we understand the thinking behind it. Terry Venables faces a number of time-consuming legal battles in the latter part of 1996 which he believes could interfere with England's efforts to qualify for the final stages of the next World Cup. He is absolutely determined to clear his name."



THOUGHT FOOTBALL WAS HIS OTHER INTERESTS.

The FA said that Venables first told them of his decision in Birmingham on December 16, the day before the draw for the European Championship finals took place there. "He was urged to think again over the Christmas period and also while he was abroad last week," said Mr Davies. "He told Graham Kelly (the FA chief executive) at lunchtime today that his decision was unchanged." Venables was given a two-year contract in 1994. He was an almost unanimous selection, but concerns were expressed at the time that Venables's feud with the Tottenham chairman and the lingering allegations about his business affairs in two BBC Panorama programmes would affect his ability to do the job. The FA are setting up a sub-committee today to appoint Venables's replacement, who is likely to be known before June's championships. England are likely to start their World Cup qualifying campaign in early September. Venables's departure is a humiliating blow for the FA who had hoped to start a new era of continuity with Venables as a starting point. "I have no comment to make. I don't want to talk about him," said Sugar from his Essex home last night.

Sport, pages 14 and 16; Richard Williams, G2 pages 4 and 5

Sarah Boseley

THE Holloway prisoner who gave birth to a baby girl after spending much of her labour in shackles gave a graphic account of the fears, humiliation and misery she went through in two letters that have been passed to the Guardian. The story of her traumatic pregnancy in the prison, and of an earlier trip to the Whittington Hospital, London, in December when premature labour began but stopped, last night reinforced arguments from penal reformers, child-birth experts and the hospital that use of shackles during labour was inappropriate. Caroline Flint, the president of the Royal College of Midwives, who is seeking a meeting with Richard Tilt, director of the Prison Service, said: "In a civilised country, women who have children or who are pregnant should not be in prison unless they are absolutely a danger to themselves or society." She had told Mr Tilt in a letter that not only was it terrible that a woman in child-birth should be in chains, but

it was intolerable that she should be accompanied by two strangers, one a man. Lady Heyman, Whittington Hospital Trust chairwoman, has asked to meet Lady Cumberlege, parliamentary under-secretary at the Department of Health, to discuss "grave professional concerns over the effects of the tightening of custody policies towards pregnant women prisoners." Mary Newburn, head of policy research at the National Childbirth Trust, said: "We should not be shackling women who are having babies, as in 1996 it is chaotic and completely inappropriate. To start your motherhood in shackles is terrible." Yesterday the consultant obstetrician in the case contradicted the statement to the House of Commons by the Home Office minister, Ann Widdecombe, that the prisoner, who wants to be known only as Annette, had not been shackled after labour was confirmed by medical staff. "I was shocked," said the consultant. "I know it was factually inaccurate to suggest, as the prison officer's log did, that labour began three hours before delivery. We have a pol-

Dear Beverly, I thank you for your letter and would have written sooner only I have just received it 6th Dec. I would like to say that life here has got easier but since writing to you because of stress, I have been ill. As they are short staffed I am lashed up 22.5 hours a day, I haven't even had a bath for three days, as it is meals and rooms. On Saturday 2 I went into labour. I was very down (about) getting to a phone in here as there is only one for 35 prisoners and it is quite impossible to get to and I cannot or do not have the energy to stand there arguing. So I got worried about my daughter Louise who is at her nanny's, I feel better when I have spoken to her, I miss her terribly, but being heavily pregnant I have to just imagine she is happy and ok. My mother I know is doing a great job but it doesn't stop me worrying, anyway I went into labour at 7 o'clock and an ambulance was called. I was handcuffed to an officer, with not the normal handcuffs but



Annette and baby after her ordeal

I was taken to Whittington labour ward, were I was in early stages of labour, two officers chained me to the bed and sat down next to me. I asked them to please leave as I was in pain, embarrassed, crying. But again no, they said I shouldn't be worried as they have had children themselves. I thought in my mind, "but you had your family or husband with you, I can even call mine, as I wouldn't want mine to see what I am having to go through as they couldn't or wouldn't understand or believe this is happening to a human being who has never hurt anyone in her life physically, but I just cried. I couldn't even cry, I hid under the sheet sobbing, anyway they decided to take me to the labour ward, the shame I felt in these chains I just wanted to die. The nurses (were) very nice, but I was handcuffed to an officer at all times. The baby didn't come, and they kept me until Monday evening and brought me back to prison until I go into labour again. I have just today received a letter saying my circumstances have changed, I am now being changed from going to an open prison to closed, why I

did not know. I cried my eyes out. It is so wrong what they are doing to me, in my heart I know I do not deserve this treatment, my unborn child doesn't my family doesn't. My daughter came to see me at the hospital on the Sunday and my best friend Sarah, she collapsed crying and my daughter Louise, well the look on her face will live with me forever, but she is a polite child and was not rude to the officers. I tried to explain it can judge us all without knowing our circumstances, it is so wrong, I have never been a burden to social services or of any degree abandoned from court my children have always been well cared for, why am I being treated in this way, if you phone my mother then she could notify you when I am taken to Whittington hospital, if not I will write after the birth of my baby. Thank you Beverly On January 2, Annette gave birth to an 8lb 8oz baby girl!

# Major attack on Blair undermined by poll slump

Michael White and Martin Linton

JOHN Major yesterday launched a ministerial onslaught on Tony Blair's "stakeholder society" as Emma Nicholson's defection plunged the Conservatives into a fresh electoral slump — boosting the Liberal Democrats by six points, their

best performance for two years, according to the new Guardian/ICM poll. Labour is 22 per cent ahead on 48 per cent, unchanged from last month, while the Tories have slumped five points to 26 per cent and the Liberal Democrats jumped from 16 to 22 per cent. Voters also overwhelmingly think Mr Major ought to resign and call an election if he loses his

overall Commons majority, ICM reported. Last night the prime minister and Labour leader were engaged in an ideological slanging match after Mr Major accused New Labour of using "stakeholder" language as a cover for reviving discredited 70s corporatism — above all, trade union power. Mr Blair was delighted with the challenge, which "marked

a turning point" in which the Tories had finally "yielded up One Nation politics to the Labour Party." In another startling contribution to the frenetic new year, Michael Heseltine told Radio 4's World At One that the steady economic recovery — which formed the core of Mr Major's upbeat breakfast speech to businessmen in London — would save the

election. "I think it's won for the Tories," he predicted. The findings of today's Guardian/ICM poll slap down Tory hopes. Voters questioned last weekend found that only one third want him to soldier on if he loses his slender Commons majority. Mr Major believes the polls are "wholly illusory" and warned his listeners that voters would be playing "Rus-

John Biffen and Martin Kettle, page 9

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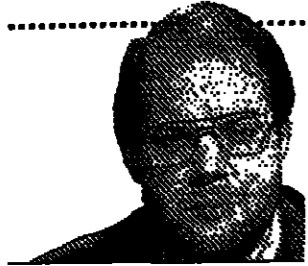
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Sketch

Spy debate lacks thrilling climax



Mark Lawson

THE highlight of the day at Westminster was a contribution from David Ashby (Con, Leics NW) on his attitude to men in uniform. In a manner reminiscent of Cecil Parkinson after his embarrassment, Mr Ashby, since losing his recent "gay smear" libel case, now wears an expression of deep seriousness — rather like a rouged Mount Rushmore — as if defying laughter at his plight.

From behind his carapace of gravity, Mr Ashby suggested that there were too many policemen around these days. Everywhere you went, there were policemen. The problem was not that Mr Ashby had been surprised by them in unexpected places; he was speaking more abstractly. There had been a "total proliferation" of police in recent years. Now the Home Secretary was proposing "another police force — rather like the FBI."

This was a reference to Michael Howard's proposal — while opening the debate on the second reading of the Security Service Bill — to extend police powers to the security services. Spooks will become pids, seconded to the fight against "serious crime".

Although the debate had attracted little interest — barely 20 MPs on each side were there to hear Mr Howard — it had inevitably brought in from the cold those members with an obsession with espionage: Labour's Chris Mullin (Sunderland South) and the Conservatives' Rupert Allason (Torbay) and Richard Shepherd (Aldridge).

Mullin and Allason (as Nigel West) write spy novels. Indeed, Allason, scribbling furiously on the backbench while Howard spoke, looked to be writing another one.

Certainly, the Home Secretary's plans, whatever their impact on the criminal justice system, seem likely to revive

the genre of espionage fiction. Stand by for the novels and television series about cops and spies treading on each others' toes. Mr Howard's acknowledgment that local police officers may not necessarily know that the funny people are on their patch seems to bring to reality that standard scene in thrillers: in which the rural flatfoots, summoned to a burglary, discover to their horror that it is the work of their Majesty's Secret Servants.

An inevitable character in spy novels these days is the old entrenched, trench-coated agent — the "spicrat" as Le Carré has it — who finds it impossible to cope with the new rapprochement between sides once violently opposed. All the old certainties have gone, and the new consensus offends his entire moral education. In yesterday's debate on the security services, Mullin, Allason and Shepherd had the air of such men, agents playing by rules of engagement now revoked.

They might reasonably have expected Michael Howard v Jack Straw to be one of the great moral stand-offs. These two men are the Smiley and Karla of modern politics, committed adversaries whose bitter clash over prison policy in that classic Westminster page-turner, The Lewis Affair, was the stuff of legend.

Howard spoke with the solid certainties typical of his empire: "The menace of organised crime is large and growing... the participation of the security service in that war will reinforce our ability to fight it effectively."

Straw rose to reply. All his training, surely, as an operative for his side had taught him to resist such rhetoric. He had thought long and hard, he said, but had come to the conclusion that "we support the principle of this bill". And, while he was about it, might he pay personal tribute to Stella Rimington, the head of MI5, for her excellent efforts in the past?

Everyone was on the same side now, it seemed. The wall was down. Smiley and Karla holding hands across the rubble. David Ashby simply looked relieved. He had got through a debate on espionage without anyone making a joke about The Guy Who Loved Me.

Tense standoff as Russian troops halt hostage convoy at Chechen border

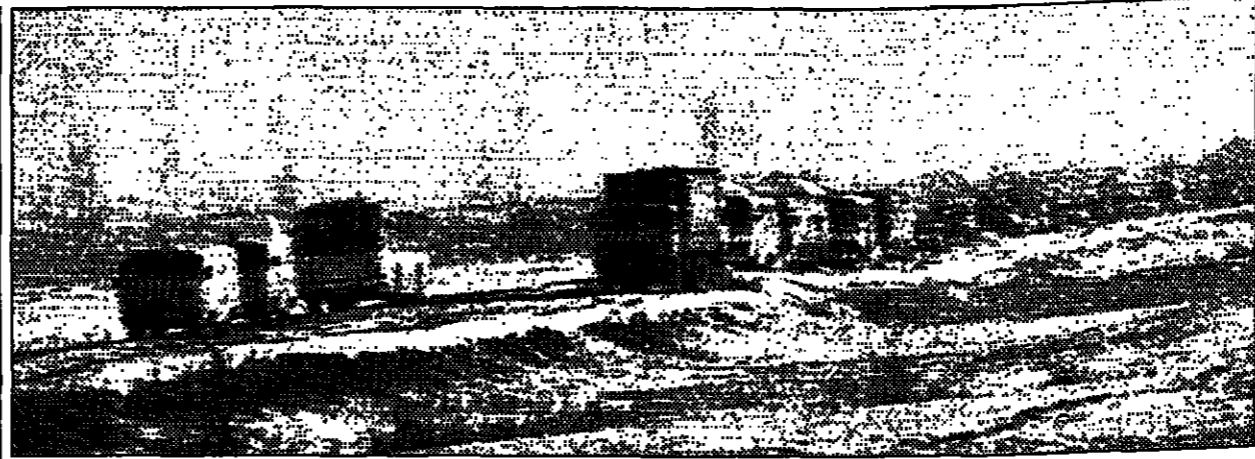
James Meek in Khasavyurt, Dagestan

TALKS between Chechen gunmen and Russian negotiators to free 130 hostages being held on buses in a border village were deadlocked last night, with Russia accusing the rebel leader Salman Raduyev of reneging on his promises.

Hundreds of Russian troops, including elite interior ministry special forces and tanks, were positioned in flat, snow-covered fields around the village of Pervomayskaya on the border between Chechnya and Dagestan. Helicopters swooped low over the countryside, increasing fears of a potentially bloody rescue was in the works.

Moscow claimed Mr Raduyev, son-in-law of the Chechen rebel leader, Dzhokhar Dudayev, had promised to release the hostages before leaving Dagestan, but was now insisting on taking them into Chechnya as guarantee of safe passage.

Russian troops forced the rebel convoy to stop at Pervomayskaya claiming a bridge on the route to Chechnya had been destroyed. A reporter travelling with the convoy said a helicopter fired near the buses to make them stop.



A convoy carrying Chechen rebels and their hostages heads for Chechnya yesterday before being halted at the border

Roads to the town were sealed off last night and journalists barred from entering. The more than 160 hostages included 110 women and children. In Pervomayskaya, Mr Raduyev freed seven senior Dagestani officials who had helped broker the original deal early yesterday morning by which the "Lone Wolf" group released about 2,000 hostages they had been holding in the main hospital in the town of Kizlyar.

Alexander Mikhailov, press spokesman for the Russian federal intelligence agency, told journalists at a crossroads near Pervomayskaya

that the hostages were being held in nine buses by about 150 Chechen fighters. He said the Chechens had also taken 37 local policemen hostage in the village. The people of Kizlyar were left feeling confused and betrayed yesterday as they contemplated the wrecked hospital by which the Chechen rebels in a community comprising various small North Caucasian Muslim ethnic groups was mixed with anger that a town which sheltered thousands of Chechen refugees at the height of the war

should be part of it now. "We never thought the Chechens would attack us," said Nazir Starbutov, a surgeon at Kizlyar's tiny railway hospital, which had been landed with the burden of wounded from Tuesday's fighting. "We just didn't believe it. They are our neighbours, people of our faith, there was never any history of war between us."

In his hand the surgeon carried an X-ray of a young boy's foot with a bullet lodged in the big toe. At least 13 people died in fighting on Tuesday when the Chechens attacked an airfield, burning two military helicopters. Then

rounded up the occupants of flats near the main hospital and herded them inside, together with patients from a separate maternity wing. It became clear yesterday that at a meeting in the town on Saturday local officials accepted a danger existed of a rebel attack and placed armed police at both hospitals.

Yet no corresponding measures were taken by the military and as a result the police were the main casualties, losing at least seven men to the better armed rebels who carried heavy machine-guns, grenade launchers and even 21 small aircraft bombs.

The only hostage to have been shot in cold blood was a young member of a police special forces unit. He still lay on the hospital floor yesterday morning, undisturbed for fear of booby traps. Lieutenant Magomed Sulmanov, aged 35, a policeman who lost a close friend in the fighting, said he had sheltered Chechen refugees in his flat last year. "We fed them, dressed them, treated them like brothers and sisters. For them to come here like this is no way out of their situation."

However, freed hostages said their captors had treated them well, and had not stolen any of the hospital medicine.

Magomed Malachayev, aged 33, duty surgeon when the rebels attacked, said the Chechens had shot the hostage only after Russian troops had refused to stop firing at the hospital with a heavy cannon. Mr Malachayev said he had operated on two of about six wounded Chechen fighters, one of them an Arab.

The 24-hour hostage ordeal left the hospital unusable, with windows broken, medical supplies, litter and syringes strewn along the corridors. Bedridden patients were evacuated yesterday morning.

Analysis, page 6  
Leader comment, page 8

Review

Unnerving images of paranoia

Robert Clark

Piranesi's Sublime Dreams  
Whitworth Art Gallery,  
Manchester

AT LAST a rare chance to see Giovanni Battista Piranesi's 18th century etchings of visionary paranoia, claustrophobia and absurdist vertigo. This is the first time I've had the dread-filled thrill of viewing the entire Imaginary Prisons series since their 1988 showing in Sheffield. How many images from more than 200 years ago seem so unnervingly up-to-the-minute? Half close your eyes, and their complex interlockings can appear like computer-generated fractals. Open your eyes and focus closer, and Piranesi's architectural caprices lock into everyone's most ego-shattering dreams of falling and wandering and struggling with reality.

One is first confronted with the 1756 View of the Subterranean Foundations of the Mausoleum Erected by the Emperor Hadrian. Even here, Piranesi forces the viewer to take the most covered perspective on the monumental foundations. The structure towers impossibly into a sky hidden somewhere off the top of the picture. Half way up one wall a couple of lost souls teeter and gaze down with understandable dismay. We learn that in fact these foundations were deeply buried. Piranesi could never have seen them. Yet he unearths them with psychological insight.

The Carceri series follow 10 years later. So what was the artist up to with these weird

architectural imaginings? Was he haunted by the labyrinthine memories of his childhood in Venice? They are far from the usual monstrous nightmares, fed by medieval guilt or fanciful myth. Here are the solid building blocks of the real world, dissolved.

Piranesi scratches into the plates to provide a tactile, finger-mail-on-blackboard visual cringing. He builds up his darkened networks with thousands of fine parallel lines that twist with a near Op-Art vibrancy. The images are all hopeless cases. Passageways lead to dead-ends. Bridges drop one off in mid-span. Spiral stairways take the eye forever on down. Great chandeliers appear to swallow the light. Lonely figures drift. The shadows, of course, are the most live things here.

Piranesi's prints have a historical, prophetic edge. All the ambivalences of industrial progress are already precisely defined in these dark and torturous mazes. In the 19th century Coleridge, aspiring to the Romantic sublime, raved about the prints to be Guineo who, without ever seeing them, envisaged them: "With the same power of endless growth and self-reproduction did my architecture proceed in dreams."

In the mid 20th century, Aldous Huxley, fed by psychiatry and early psychedelia, saw in them "states of soul, whose reference is to confusion, to nightmare and angst, to incomprehension and panic bewilderment". It is telling that most of us, conditioned by the endless mazes of virtual space, still find in these old prints a trisom of déjà vu familiarity.

Bypass protest stops digger in new victory

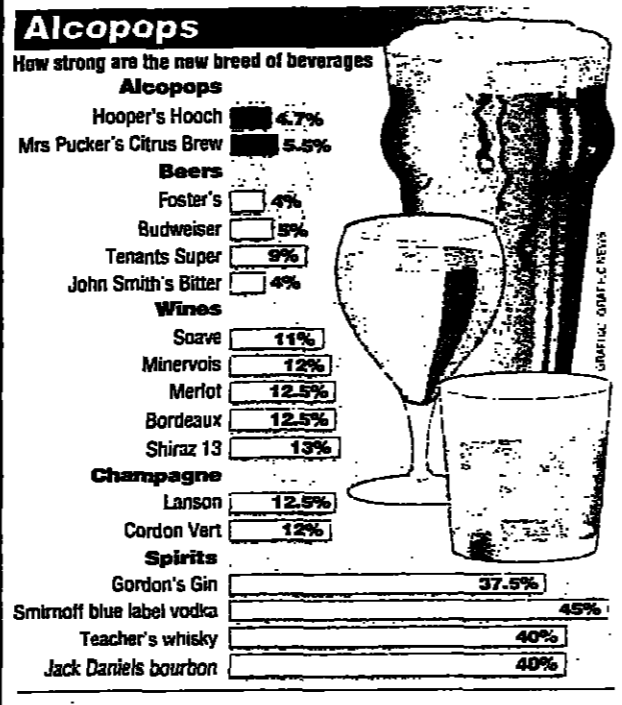
Alex Bellis

ANTI-ROADS protesters acclaimed another victory yesterday in the battle over the £100 million Newbury bypass after work was abandoned for the second day running.

Up to 20 protesters broke through a line of security guards and lay in the hole created by one of 30 or so uprooted trees. The 150 security guards, including reinforcements, outnumbered the protesters by about two to one.

Chief Inspector Frank Connor, of Hampshire police, announced the builders' decision to stop work for the day at the Tot Hill site.

New rules for 'alcopop' sales inadequate say campaigners



Holloway prisoner reveals shame she felt at being kept in shackles during labour

continued from page 1

icy that anybody who is on the labour ward is in labour." Beverley Lawrence-Beech, chairwoman of the Association for Improvements in Maternity Services, to whom Annette wrote the two letters, was so concerned at the prisoner's distress that she went to the hospital when Annette was in labour and stayed with her until the birth.

"When she was in the delivery room she was not shackled, but the moment she stepped outside to go to the toilet or phone somebody, the prison officers put the shackles on." Annette's baby was born some 10 hours after her waters were broken.

Prison Service said: "If you are capable of getting up and walking downstairs and making a telephone call, there is a possibility you could escape."

Dr Eben considered it highly unlikely that a woman who was in any stage of labour would try to abscond. Annette was guarded throughout her labour by two prison officers, one male and one female, who left the delivery room only during intimate examinations.

Miss Widdowson said in the Commons on Tuesday she shared "concerns that have been expressed about decency and delicacy and the use of male officers in these circumstances." She said she "hoped to move to a position in

Edward Pilkington

THE drinks industry yesterday agreed to tighten its rules on the marketing of so-called "alcopops" — alcoholic beverages aimed at young people — in a move which campaigners and health workers dismissed as inadequate.

The industry's seven largest manufacturers agreed to draw up a code of practice designed to regulate the way such products are named, labelled and promoted. The guidelines, they said, would ensure the drinks did not overtly appeal to children.

Concern that alcopops may be encouraging under-age drinking has grown rapidly since the first brands were launched last summer. The leading brand, Hooper's Hooch, now sells more than 2.5 million cans a week.

The second most popular brand, Two Dogs, will also be covered by the code as it is distributed by Whitbread, one of the seven signatories. Most of the brands contain alcohol at between 4 and 5 per cent volume — slightly stronger than many beers, lagers and ciders. Some are as potent as 9 per cent.

Although evidence of a boom in child drinking is scant, campaigners say the beverages blur the distinction between alcohol and soft drinks with names such as Cola Lips, Lemonhead and "Alcola" — the cola that bites back. Some shops have sold brands from the same cabinets as non-alcoholic drinks.

Portman Group, a self-regulating body funded by the seven drinks manufacturers, its director, John Rae, the former headmaster of Westminster school, has criticised the introduction of the new brands as a case of the industry shooting itself in the foot.

Yesterday he said he feared alcoholic lemonades and colas could increase teenage drinking. "They have a sweet taste children are familiar with."

The proposed guidelines stipulate that imagery used in marketing the brands should not include characters likely to appeal to under-16s and that alcoholic content should be clearly displayed.

Nigel Griffiths, Labour's consumer affairs spokesman, cast doubt on the efficacy of the proposed code. "Most of these drinks are produced by manufacturers that will not have subscribed to the new regulations."

Mr Griffiths yesterday tabled questions in the Commons calling for a parliamentary debate on the issue.

The Portman Group admitted the initiative did not cover most brands but said in terms of market sale it would apply to more than three-quarters of all cans sold. The British Soft Drinks Association said terms it considers confusing — such as "alcoholic lemonade", "alcoholic cola" and "alcoholic soft drink" — should be banned.

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Advertisement for Direct Line Personal Loans. Text: "You don't have to be a Direct Line customer to apply for a Personal Loan." "Want a cheaper Personal Loan? Don't bank on the big three banks." Includes a table comparing Direct Line, Barclays, Nat West, and Abbey National on loan amounts, APRs, and 36-monthly repayments. Contact numbers for London, Manchester, and Glasgow are provided.

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ops halt order

# MP claims cover-up on lottery trips

David Hencke  
Westminster Correspondent

MINISTERS admitted yesterday that they had kept quiet about free flights taken by Peter Davis, the National Lottery regulator, from the American company Gtech, part-owner of the lottery firm Camelot.

Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, disclosed that senior civil servants at her ministry had been briefed about the trips a week before a Commons committee meeting where they became public.

No attempt was made to inform Sir John Bourn, the Comptroller and Auditor-General, or Robert Sheldon, Labour chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, before Mr Davis appeared before the committee, she told Alan Williams, Labour MP for Swansea West, in a parliamentary answer.

Mr Williams said yesterday: "What this means is that if I had not asked any questions about the trips after receiving a tip-off all this information would have remained confidential. Since the disclosure led to a full inquiry and Mr Davis's suitability for the job was questioned, what we now have is a cover-up as well as a whitewash."

Mrs Bottomley's reply said that her department became aware of the trips when Mr Davis submitted his working brief to the head of the ministry's arts, sport and lottery group. She defended the decision not to pass on the information to the committee by saying it was not her ministry's responsibility and accusing the National Audit Office of not spotting entries on the Office of the National Lottery (ONL) files. "It was for the Director General rather than for my officials to answer any questions raised by the committee about these matters," she wrote. "Full reports on the visits and travel arrangements were on ONL's files and thus open to inspection by the National Audit Office from November 1994."

At the hearing Mr Williams asked Mr Davis about a trip to Florida in 1994 - after he had approved Camelot to run the National Lottery but before he awarded the company the lucrative Instant scratch card game.

Mr Davis disclosed that while his office had paid his fare to Florida for the trips to visit state lotteries in a private jet owned by Gtech, which holds nearly a quarter of Camelot's shares.

He said: "These trips saved the taxpayers a lot of money... I absolutely cannot see anything wrong in this."



Daphne Banks is embraced by her husband Claude at yesterday's press conference, when Mr Banks was moved to tears by his wife's admission of her suicide attempt (below left) (TM NEWS)

# 'Lucky dip' offers random gamble

John Ezard

THE National Lottery is to launch a new "lucky dip" £1 gamble aimed partly at easing the mental strain on people in a hurry who want to avoid having to choose six numbers a week in a busy shop.

It is expected to recruit even more entrants into the lottery and is based on the finding that 90 per cent change their numbers every week. The announcement came as a relief to the churches, which had feared a new "instant" game was about to be introduced.

The option, already used in some overseas lotteries, will be launched in March. If entrants go straight to a counter and ask for a lucky dip, the retailer presses a button which prompts the computer to print a ticket with six random numbers for the Saturday night draw. Otherwise entrants can tick a new box on the

lottery play slip for an additional "lucky dip" after filling in their six chosen numbers. Their numbers are printed on the tickets issued.

Only about 8 per cent of players use the existing "minimum effort" facility which lets them choose the same number for eight weeks by filling in a single play slip.

John Kennedy, of the Methodist Church division for social responsibility, said the church was relieved that this was simply "a refresh of the weekly draw". Churches had asked for a moratorium on new instant games until research into their effects was known.

The third and last National Lottery jackpot winner has finally claimed a share of the £42 million payout over last Saturday's draw. Daphne Banks dead slot said last night. Like the first two, the ticketholder requested no publicity.

# American's balloon record bid ends with big let-down

Owen Bowcott

AN American attempt to make the first circumnavigation of the globe by balloon collapsed on a frozen Canadian lake last night as the multi-millionaire Richard Branson prepared to launch his high-altitude challenge.

The race to claim one of aviation's last great records has pitted Steve Fossett - who made a fortune in soybean trading on Chicago's futures markets - against a three-man team including the British Virgin Atlantic Airways owner, Swede Per Lindstrand, and Rory McCarthy.

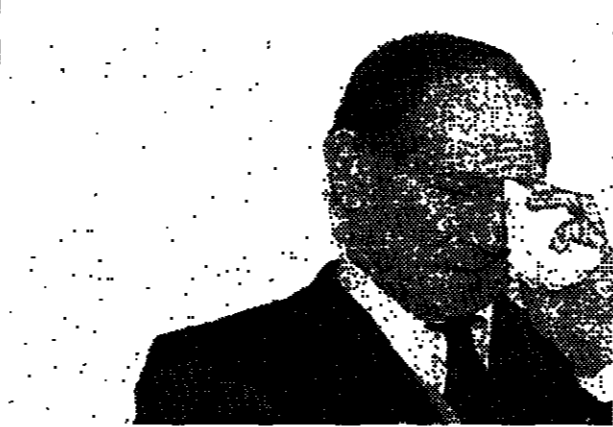
Mr Fossett, aged 51, launched from South Dakota's Black Hills four days ago, promising supporters: "We're going to have a good go at it."

His solo voyage was planned to last 16 to 21 days, but on the third day his emergency beacon was activated as he drifted through the skies off Nova Scotia, buffeted by high winds, light snow and low clouds.

After he jettisoned equipment over the Bay of Fundy, Mr Branson ordered yesterday afternoon on a frozen lake in New Brunswick. Asked by journalists how he felt, he replied: "Rather disappointed, and embarrassed that I didn't do better."

A spokesman at expedition headquarters in Chicago said: "We don't know what went wrong. We assume he had a problem with the battery."

Mr Branson is in France making last-minute preparations for Virgin Global Challenger's lift-off next week.



# 'I was just looking at her and thinking how devastated Claude would be feeling. Suddenly, a vein twitched two or three times... Then pandemonium broke out'

## Angella Johnson reports on the doctor's apology to the woman who cheated death

A DOCTOR who wrongly declared farmer's wife Daphne Banks dead after she had attempted suicide yesterday apologised to the family for his error.

"I would like to say how sorry I am about what has happened," said Dr David Roberts, senior GP at a practice in Great Staughton in Cambridgeshire. "I am very pleased Mrs Banks is making good progress."

Mrs Banks admitted she had tried to kill herself by swallowing a combination of pills while suffering a bout of depression. At a news conference attended by Mrs Banks and her husband Claude, the

family's solicitor said it would not be taking legal action despite Dr Roberts' "error of judgment".

The Cambridge and Huntingdon health commission, which investigated the incident, also said they would take no action. "The facts that we have established have allowed us to form the opinion that the doctor concerned does not present a danger to his patients or the public," said a spokesman.

Mrs Banks, aged 61, looked tense and nervous as she appeared in public for the first time since being saved by the timely intervention of an undertaker, shortly before her body was to be refrigerated at Hinchingsbrook hospital morgue, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire.

Asked how she was feeling, she replied in a faint voice: "Fine thank you."

A statement read on their behalf by solicitor Anthony Northey said that on New Year's Eve, Mrs Banks, an

epileptic, "took a large quantity of her epilepsy tablets and some sleeping tablets... climbed into bed and just drifted off to sleep."

She had been feeling lonely and isolated for some time because her illness prevented her driving and her age meant that she could no longer walk to the nearest village from her 200-acre farm in Stony, Cambridgeshire.

"This sense of depression gradually built up and on New Year's Eve it came to a head. She could not face going on."

Mr Banks arrived at the farmhouse after visiting their daughter nearby and found his wife lying under the duvet in their bedroom. She showed no sign of life. He called the ambulance service, which arranged for Dr Roberts to attend.

Dr Roberts, a married man with several young children, examined the body and announced that he could find no sign of life. He cancelled the

ambulance and called instead for the undertakers at 8am.

Ken Davison, an old family friend, was one of the two undertakers who took her body to the mortuary about seven miles away, where he noticed a vein twitching in her right leg as he waited for the mortician to prepare a refrigerator for the body.

Yesterday he said: "The body was on a stretcher on the floor. We had left her rightdress on for decency and I was just looking at her and thinking how devastated Claude would be feeling. Then suddenly, a vein twitched two or three times."

He then saw Mrs Banks's chest begin moving and she snored twice. "Then pandemonium broke out."

Mrs Banks's next recollection after taking the overdose was seeing her daughter leaning over her at 8am on January 2.

Her solicitor said Mrs Banks had been surprised to find herself the focus of world

attention as a result of having cheated death. John Major, a family friend and the local MP, was among those who sent flowers and messages of sympathy.

Mrs Banks spoke as details of his wife's suicide bid and loneliness were revealed. The couple, who have been married for 40 years, had turned down offers of "considerable sums of money" for interviews, their solicitor said.

The couple are well-known in the area for their involvement in county cricket and charity work. Mrs Banks and her family thanked the hospital staff, the undertakers and mortuary staff for saving her life and asked to be left in peace so she could continue her recovery.

Dr Roberts, who has practised in the area for about 20 years, issued a statement through the Medical Defence Union saying doctor-patient confidentiality meant he could make no further comment.

# How a drug coma can confuse doctors

Chris Mihill  
Medical Correspondent

NEUROLOGISTS and general practitioners yesterday pointed out that a drug overdose can induce a coma so near to death that it can be difficult to detect life without sophisticated machinery only available in hospitals.

Bryan Jennett, emeritus professor of neurosurgery at Glasgow University, and one of the pioneers in defining persistent vegetative state, said yesterday that a drug overdose or hypothermia could make assessing death very difficult.

"GPs will listen to the heart and breathe and check the pulse, but there are no machines available to GPs when they visit a house, and that is where many deaths are declared. It is only in intensive care units that you see the monitors."

Prof Jennett said a battery of tests was carried out in hospitals, especially where patients were being checked for brainstem death before transplant organs were taken. "Problems occurred sometimes in the homes of old people or with drunkards found in the snow."

"However, these are special circumstances. I think we can reassure the public that hundreds of patients are not being taken to morgues while they are still alive. If it was happening we would have heard about it by now."

# Millennarian doomsayers predict an uncertain future as computers put the clock back

Patrick Donovan  
City Editor

RELIGIOUS cults have long warned that the coming millennium will herald the end of the world. Now even the computer industry quakes before its own *fin de siècle* crisis - all because much of its software has not been programmed to count up to 2000.

When Big Ben booms at the turn of the century, industry sources are predicting chaos as baffled computer clocks wind themselves back to zero.

The problem, which could cost \$400 billion to rectify worldwide, lies in the way typical software registers just the last two digits in the calendar year. Rather than spelling out their card counters will simply read 00.

Computer giant IBM warns that this could play havoc with everything from your income tax to financial and medical records. Ian Baker, the IBM manager responsible for the firm's "Year 2000 Centre of Competence" warns that unless banks wise up to the problem "anybody trying to draw money out of a cash

will find their card refused because the computer would think it had passed its date of expiry".

The same problem confronts banks, bus and government offices. Even blood banks face electronic systems deciding that their entire plasma stocks are a century past their use-by dates.

IBM says the problem arises because so many businesses and government agencies rely on computer programmes

written in the early 1980s. "People just were not thinking about the future then."

Even the humble personal computer could be hit, with some older models expected to automatically reprogramme themselves to the date they were built.

But don't count on your overdraft and tax bill being wiped out on January 1, 2000. Banks like Barclays admit

they are refurbishing their systems, but they insist they are on the case and reckon the cost for the bank will be no more than £5 million.

As for the inland Revenue, a techno-boffin would only say: "In computer language 00 comes before 99 and you can't have a year 00 after 99." All of which makes about as much sense as its new simplified tax forms.

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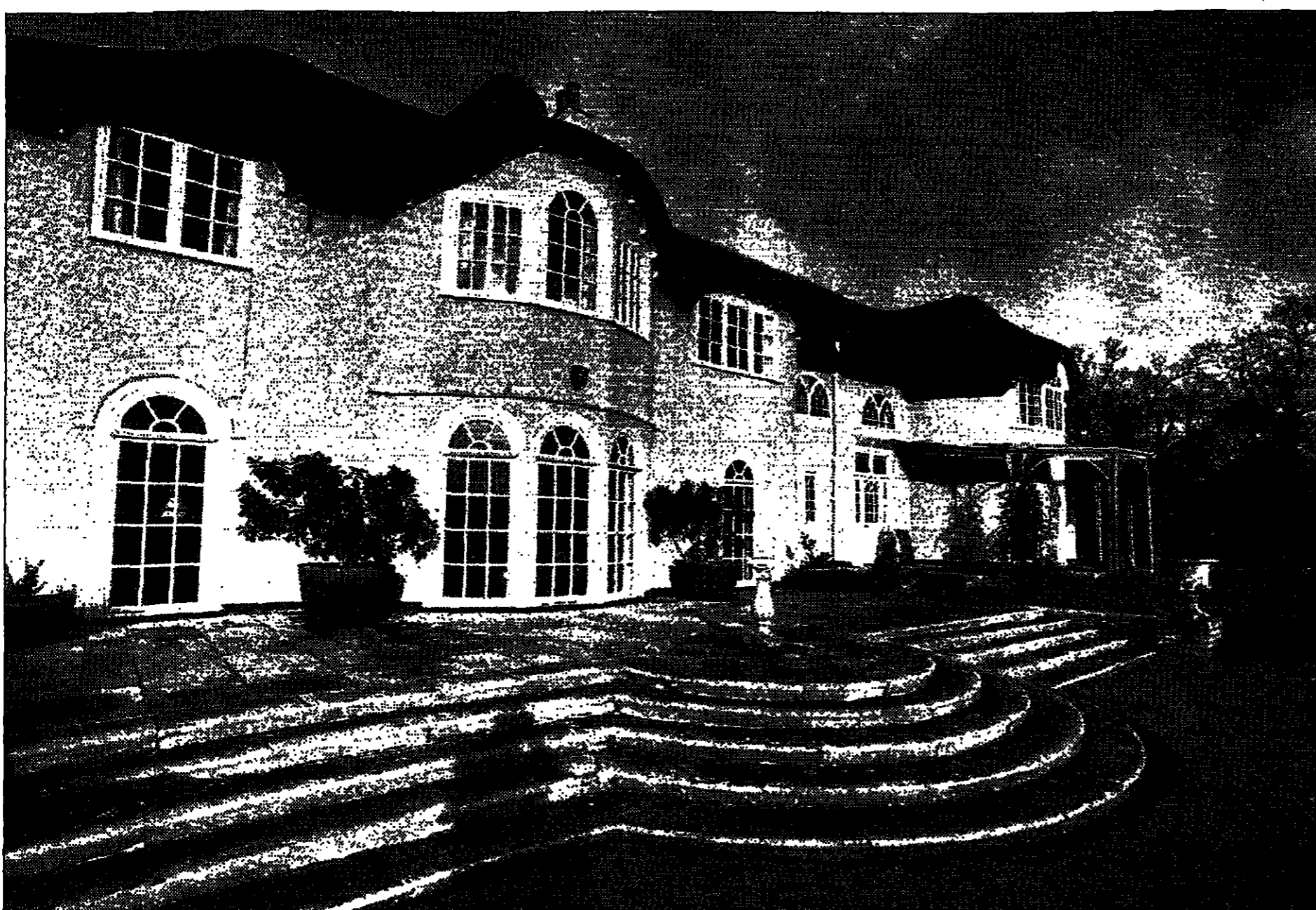


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Going, going... Bishopswood at Fareham, Hampshire, which is 'cold and very expensive to maintain' but which is estimated to be worth about £1 million. PHOTOGRAPH: ROGER BAMBER

## Bishop feeling draught happy to move

Sally Weale talks to a cleric caught up in belt-tightening moves by the Church of England



Dr Stevenson: no question of his being evicted

**T**HE new Bishop of Portsmouth said yesterday he was perfectly happy to be giving up the sprawling 200-year-old residence that has been the home of the previous seven bishops for a much more modest house half a mile away.

The move — part of general belt-tightening in the Church of England as the result of a financial crisis — had led to a "rather silly controversy" on his first tour of the diocese, the Right Reverend Dr Kenneth Stevenson said.

Betraying only the slightest trace of irritation, he said there was no question of his being evicted from the house, which will now be sold. He had known since last summer that Bishopwood, which is renowned for having the largest thatched roof in the south of England, would have to go.

And he was, he insisted, perfectly happy to be moving across town to Carlton House, just north of town centre in

Reputed to be worth about £1 million, the house was originally built in the 17th century as a gardener's cottage in the grounds of the Black Brook Farm Estate. It was largely re-built and extended in the 1800s.

It was bought by the Church of England in 1937 for a few thousand pounds as a home for Neville Lovett, the first Bishop of Portsmouth, after the creation of the diocese.

"It's been lovely, but it's cold," Dr Stevenson, the father of four children, said. He and his wife, Sarah, will leave Bishopwood with its eight bedrooms, its leaded gothic windows, minstrel's gallery and pond in two years' time once renovation is complete at Carlton House.

It is thought to be the first time that senior clergy have been asked to make the sacrifices forced on their lower-ranking colleagues since the Church Commissioners' catastrophic foray into property speculation resulted in losses of £200 million during the early 1990s.

In new guidelines issued by the commissioners they say they believe it is no longer appropriate for bishops to live in such grandeur, which may make them appear remote and unapproachable.

But though it may be more

modest, the bishop's new home is hardly a shoebox. A substantial Victorian villa, it has seven bedrooms and a stable block, and stands in ¼ of an acre of land. It was on the market for £300,000 and the commissioners are investing more in order to prepare it for Dr Stevenson.

"The consensus within the church is that bishops need to live in large houses. This new house falls happily within the agreed size."

So if money was the issue, why did he not live in a semi like most of his congregation? "We have to entertain; we have to have people to stay; we have to meet people."

"The consensus within the church is that bishops need to live in large houses. This new house falls happily within the agreed size."

● The commissioners have, since 1993, been reviewing the future of the 43 houses which are home to its diocesan bishops in an attempt to save money and enable them to live among their flocks, Sarah Boseley adds.

But despite the public offer in March 1994 by the Bishop of Peterborough to leave his 800-year-old palace, Portsmouth is the only one to be listed for disposal.

Peterborough is one of the 28 to be retained, along with Auckland Palace, the castle-like home of the Bishop of Durham.

The 14 whose fate is yet undecided are Carlisle, Blackburn, Lichfield, Lincoln, Liverpool, Chelmsford, Chester, Norwich, Ripon, Sodor and Man (on the Isle of Man), Southwell in Nottinghamshire, Truro, Worcester and London.



New home... Carlton House, a substantial replacement now being renovated. PHOTOGRAPH: ROGER BAMBER

## Shepherd drops PM's opt-out plan

John Carvel  
Education Editor

**T**HE Education and Employment Secretary, Gillian Shepherd, yesterday took her revenge against the Prime Minister's meddling with her portfolio when she published an education bill encouraging more church schools to opt for grant-maintained status.

It had been widely forecast that the Government would scrap a proposal for a fast-track procedure allowing church schools to opt out without halting parents. Ministers had little chance of forcing through a measure Anglican and Roman Catholic bishops condemned as discriminatory and divisive. But the Nursery Education and Grant-Maintained Schools Bill also abandoned five other options for helping church schools distance themselves from local education authorities, including increased financial delegation and removal of council appointees from governing bodies.

Mr Shepherd seems to have told John Major to get back in his box," said Alan Parker, education officer of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities. "He bounced her department into publishing proposals which it never believed in. Her officials have now rightly concluded that it would be unwise to include even some of his lesser proposals."

Robin Squire, the Schools Minister, said the Government remained "fully committed to extending the benefits of self-government to all schools". It was examining a range of longer term options.

The bill will allow grant-

maintained schools to mortgage land, buildings and other assets to raise private money for developments.

Its provisions for nursery education will allow the Government to introduce a voucher scheme in spring 1997, offering parents of four-year-olds a certificate worth £1,100 which can be exchanged for five half-days a week of pre-school education at council or private nurseries or play groups.

Ministers have said the vouchers will be distributed in February 1997 — before the last possible date for an election — but could not be "spent" before the summer term.

The bill has narrowed the scope of the scheme by entitling parents to vouchers only from the term starting after the child's fourth birthday. Most education authorities admit children to primary school as "rising fives" — in the term when their fifth birthday falls. Many offer places at the start of the academic year in which a child will be five. For them the nursery entitlement may only be a term or two.

David Blunkett, shadow education secretary, said: "John Major has been forced into a humiliating retreat in the teeth of overwhelming opposition from church schools and the bishops."

Don Foster, the Liberal Democrat education spokesman, said the bill amounted to two worthless gimmicks.

● Leaders of all local authority associations agreed yesterday to make a formal complaint about comments by Chris Woodhead, the chief inspector of schools. They asked Mrs Shepherd to gag him after he published an article blaming authorities for a dependence culture in schools.

## Sinn Fein hope on weapons destruction

David Sharrock  
Ireland Correspondent

**T**HE IRA might be prepared to allow an independent third party to witness the destruction of its weapons by its own volunteers, Sinn Fein has told the international body examining the issue of illegal arms.

The acceptance of the idea, first put to Sinn Fein by the Northern Ireland minister, Michael Antram, in May last year, is revealed in the party's submission to the body, led by President Clinton's special envoy, George Mitchell.

The Government yesterday resisted the temptation to describe Sinn Fein's cautious endorsement as a positive step towards resolving the arms issue. The party's submission also insists that a political settlement must be negotiated and agreed first.

Downing Street has insisted that the IRA must make a confidence-building gesture on arms before all-party talks begin.

Mitchell's panel has promised to deliver its report to the British and Irish governments by next Thursday.

The Government is also sceptical because the "DIY" option raises problems of verification and a risk to public safety.

The 29-page Sinn Fein paper sends out a number of confusing signals.

At one point it says: "There is no possibility in Sinn Fein's view of a surrender of British troops and the creation of an unarmed police service must be part of a general demilitarisation of the situation."

Demilitarisation is Sinn Fein's preferred word for what the Government understands as decommissioning, but which also encompasses security force weaponry. The paper reveals that the Government made three proposals for dealing with illegal weapons.

These are: direct transfer to the authorities; depositing arms for recovery and destruction by the authorities; or the destruction of arms by those in possession of them.

The paper argues that as part of a settlement "the disposal of arms by the possession of them is a method which might find acceptance."

But it takes issue with the Government's suggestion that decommissioning would be "a formally promulgated and widely publicised scheme," saying that the issue "will need to be dealt with in a way which imbues and maintains public and political confidence."

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## NHS errors 'appal' MPs

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

**H**EALTH workers and managers found guilty of serious errors are being allowed to keep their jobs when they should be sacked, MPs complained yesterday.

Hospital trusts are exploiting their new freedoms under the NHS act by neglecting to discipline staff whose failings are exposed by the health service ombudsman, according to the Commons select committee on the ombudsman.

James Pawsey, the committee's chairman and the Con-

servative MP for Rugby and Kenilworth, said: "Some of the cases brought before this committee are frankly appalling. I am genuinely worried about patients passing through these hospitals on future occasions."

The committee was questioning Alan Langlands, NHS chief executive for England, and Geoff Scate, his opposite number in Scotland, on recent cases investigated by the ombudsman.

These included the case of a woman who died at Basildon general hospital, Essex, 24 hours after the hospital tried to send her home and her family insisted she stay. The hospital then issued three dif-

ferent death certificates, one of which was torn up in front of the family.

Members of the committee protested that the same issues seemed to recur year after year.

Michael Lord, Tory MP for Suffolk Central, said the committee was getting "pretty fed up".

Tony Wright, Labour member MP for Cannock and Burntwood, said the ombudsman's reports appeared to "disappear into a black hole".

Mr Pawsey said: "What bothers me is that we continue to see chief executives remaining in post in certain of our hospitals when I doubt their competence."

## Author finds poetic turn-up for the books on Burns

Erland Clouston

**A**NTHOLOGIES of the work of Robert Burns may have to be radically revised after a claim that up to 40 of his poems have lain unnoticed in yellowing newspaper files.

If confirmed as genuine, the discoveries will boost the troubled celebrations surrounding the 200th anniversary of the death of Scotland's national bard.

The anonymous but apparently uncanonically Burns-like verses were turned up by Stranraer author Patrick Hogg while scanning the contributors' columns of two radical 18th century publications, the Morning Chronicle and the



Burns: '40 poems found'

Edinburgh Gazette. "When I first saw them I thought I couldn't be possible so I shelved them," said 35-year-old Mr Hogg, who was

preparing a book on Burns' "world view." "Then as I worked on, I thought 'Jesus Christ, it looks as though this is true.'"

Mr Hogg's claims will be eagerly devoured by participants in a three-day bicentenary Burns conference which opens at Strathclyde university today.

The conference is part of a huge "Rabbiefest", which despite £500,000 of public funding has staggered from disaster to disaster.

Ken Simpson, director of Strathclyde university's centre for Scottish cultural studies, and organiser of the Burns conference, said last night that some of the poems might indeed be by Burns.

## Labour's women MPs insist equality push must go on

Rebecca Smithers  
Political Correspondent

**L**ABOUR'S women MPs want a commitment from the party's National Executive Committee that it will seek fresh measures to get more women into Parliament should it drop the all-women shortlists policy.

Tony Blair, the Labour leader, who in the past has declared the policy to be "not ideal" is reviewing it in the wake of Monday's industrial tribunal ruling that excluding men from shortlists is unlawful.

Amid fears that Mr Blair will abandon the policy for the 14 constituencies where all-women selections have been temporarily frozen, many women MPs want a reaffirmation of the party's commitment to increasing its number of women MPs. Of the 271 Labour MPs in the Commons, 38 are women.

Women MPs have also been angered by comments made by Labour's former deputy leader, Roy Hattersley, who welcomed the ruling and called on Mr Blair to abandon the "silly" policy now.

Harriet Harman, the shadow health secretary and a member of the "Emily's List" group backing more seats for women, said yesterday that Mr Hattersley's response was "not helpful".

She said Labour's policy of positive discrimination helped women by highlighting their under-representation in all parties, not just Labour. She added that she would submit proposals to a meeting of the NEC's women's committee on Monday. The NEC itself meets again on January 31.

Helen Jackson, co-chairwoman of the Parliamentary Labour Party's women's group and MP for Sheffield Hillsborough, said she favoured an appeal against the tribunal ruling.

The shadow women's minister, Tessa Jowell, said: "We introduced all-women shortlists as a means of ensuring that Parliament speaks up for both women and men. We will continue to work towards achieving that end because we will not put mere lip service to our guiding principles of equality and democracy."

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Team strips... Wigan rugby league stars Va'aiga Tuigamala (above), Shaun Edwards (far right) and Henry Paul in action wearing Breathe Right

### Snoring cure keeps athletes' noses ahead

John Duncan on a new go-faster strip

SPORTS stars keen to head off their rivals are increasingly turning to a small piece of plastic which sticks on to the nose and can improve oxygen intake by 5 per cent. The device — originally developed as a cure for snoring — looks like a plaster when in use and works by opening the nasal passages with springy plastic strips backed by adhesive. Called Breathe Right, it is imported from the United



States, where it has passed stringent medical tests and is widely used in American football. It is being tested at Wigan rugby league club thanks to their sprint coach, Chris Butler, who came across the device on a fact-finding trip to America in September. "What it does is flare the nostrils, stopping them flattening and allowing a slightly larger volume of oxygen per effort of breath-

ing. That's my contention although it's yet to be proven to help," he said. "It's useful in the aerobic sports and the [Andorra-based] Festina professional cycling team have also tried it and found it useful. The anecdotal evidence is that there is an effect but we are in the business of winning and anything that is legal we will look at. So far it looks good." Wigan players Va'aiga Tuigamala, Martin Hall,

Shaun Edwards and Henry Paul are among those who have been enthusiastic about their nasal assistance. "Martin O'Flaherty tried it too," said Mr Butler. "but I think he wanted one that didn't stand out so much. I think they'll have to bring out a darker version if they want him to wear one, though it doesn't bother any of the black American footballers." In the US, 50 per cent of

American football players are said to wear the device, which costs around £6 for 10 and will be launched here in February after tests at Leeds's Carnegie College. "It's especially good for rugby league," said Mr Butler. "because there are some noses in the game that, let's say, have suffered from previous heavy contacts. But there is no reason why it shouldn't be used in other 'marathon' sports."

#### News in brief

### Treasury is tardy in paying bills

THE Treasury is by far the worst government department for paying bills, the Treasury minister, Angela Knight, has admitted in a letter to Labour's small business minister, Barbara Roche. Mrs Knight, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, revealed that 26 per cent of bills have been paid late so far in the current financial year, 1995/96. Her reply corrected an earlier answer to a parliamentary question indicating that the Treasury's record in 1994/95 was 18 per cent. "I am very sorry to say that my officials made an error... they now report that 18 per cent of invoices were not paid within 30 days in 1993/94, 25 per cent in 1994/95, and 26 per cent in 1995/96 so far," she wrote to Mrs Roche. After the Treasury, the departments with the poorest record for settlement of their suppliers' bills in the current financial year are the Department of Trade and Industry, with 16 per cent, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Foods, with 14.5 per cent. — Rebecca Smithers

### Basildon youths in court

TWO youths arrested during police investigations into the death of Leah Betts appeared in court yesterday on drugs charges. Stephen Smith, aged 18, of Basildon, Essex, and a 17-year-old from nearby Laindon, were remanded on bail by Southend magistrates to appear on March 6 for committal to the crown court. Both were charged with that between November 5 and 12 they were concerned with each other in supplying ecstasy tablets. Stephen Smith alone was also charged that on November 11 he supplied four ecstasy tablets. No pleas were taken, and the court ordered that the 17-year-old should not be identified. Bail was granted on condition both defendants live at home, although Mr Smith was given permission to go on a college trip to France. Leah collapsed during her 18th birthday party at her home in the village of Latchingdon on November 11 after taking one ecstasy tablet she bought for £12 in Basildon. — Alan Watkins

### Cash appeal for landmarks

MILLIONAIRE Peter de Savary will put £1 million of his own cash into a new company to buy John O'Groats and Land's End if enough other people come forward to raise the remainder of the asking price. Mr de Savary bought the two landmarks in 1989 and spent £6 million redeveloping a hotel at Land's End before selling them in 1991 to a New Zealand company, Gulf Resources Pacific, which has now put them back on the market for £5.5 million. Yesterday he said: "I want to set up a public limited company to own and manage Land's End and the John O'Groats House Hotel. This will give everyone in Britain the chance to own a stake in two of the most famous landmarks in the country. I do not want to own them privately but I am prepared to pour all my energy and enthusiasm into turning them around, and I will put up to £1 million into the kitty to buy the properties."

### 'Put road ragers on couch'

MOTORISTS convicted of "road rage" offences should undergo counselling before being allowed back behind the wheel, the RAC has told the Home Office. Offenders should have to attend 10 two-hour sessions — first with a psychologist and then in group therapy with other offenders. "Road rage is not supposed, officially, to exist, but we think it is a very serious problem," said a spokesman for the motoring organisation, Edmund King. A Home Office spokesman said: "All road rage is aggressive and violent behaviour, and there are plenty of laws to deal with that."

### Unions told 2pc is too much

UNIONS representing 1.5 million council workers were warned yesterday that a pay rise of more than 2 per cent would be difficult to cope with without risking jobs and services. Local government employers said many authorities in Britain could only afford any pay increase by cutting jobs and services. Talks in London over the pay rise were adjourned and will resume on January 29.

### Water takeover demanded

EIGHTY Labour MPs yesterday called on the Environment Secretary, John Gummer, to seek a High Court order to take over drought-troubled Yorkshire Water until a new board and management structure was in place. They have tabled a motion urging the move because the "disastrous record of Yorkshire Water and the ensuing hiatus in its board and management structure presents an urgent and continuing threat to the water and sewerage service in the county".

**Today's generation of world leaders looks increasingly old and fragile, though determined to resist the pressures for glasnost when it comes to their physical fitness for power.**



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6 WORLD NEWS

Alex Duval Smith in Jarnac reports on a town's attempts to keep its favourite uncle's funeral simple

Farewell to 'a somebody'

THE people of Jarnac like to say they are as modest as their grey stone houses. But gossips were hard at work in the municipal cemetery where "François" will be laid to rest today in the last space in the Mitterrand family grave.

Where are they going to put Danielle when she dies? asked Andrée Faure, aged 63, yesterday. She was visiting her father's grave, beside the drab memorial which houses the remains of 11 members of François Mitterrand's family, including his parents.

Bastille rally honours Mitterrand

THOUSANDS of mourners gathered in the Place de la Bastille in Paris last night in honour of François Mitterrand — the same square where 1 million left-wingers celebrated his presidential victory nearly 15 years ago.

As police and army paced the route of the cortege yesterday, Mrs Mare announced the "irrevocable" plans for today. Mitterrand's body will be flown from Paris by military aircraft, arriving at Cognac, seven miles away, at 9.30am.

Abel Guy, where Mitterrand was born. Prince Charles and heads of state will attend a solemn mass of remembrance at the Cathedral of Notre-Dame in Paris, to be held at the same time.

More than 500 people are expected at the private service, which will be relayed by loudspeaker all over Jarnac. After the service, the cortege will move 500 yards to the Grandes Maisons cemetery, stopping outside 7 rue

stories of François and his seven siblings. As a boy, Marc Saunier, aged 78, played table-tennis with the president-to-be, Jeanne Bourdage, aged 78, who went to primary school with Mitterrand, said their teacher had predicted he would become "a bishop or a president".

Younger people were oblivious of the gentle childhood memories which were being steamrollered by state pomp. Claudine Roche, aged 29, one of two local florists, had not slept since Monday morning. She had received more than 3,000 orders for single red roses.

Yesterday she was pinning eucalyptus and rose leaves to a heart-shaped base which would be decorated with red roses and a wooden dove. "It is for someone close to the family, but I am too tired to remember whom," she said.

While the people from Paris made plans, the people of Jarnac were warmly recounting

World news in brief

Britons kidnapped in Indonesia

FOUR Britons are among seven Westerners who have been kidnapped in a remote Indonesian province, according to an army spokesman in the capital, Jakarta. The Britons, together with two Dutch people, a German and an Indonesian, were seized on Sunday in Jayawijaya, Irian Jaya, the Indonesian half of the island of New Guinea, the official Antara news agency reported yesterday.

FT reporter held in Nigeria

BRITAIN yesterday demanded that Nigeria immediately release a Financial Times journalist who was arrested in Ogoniland in the south-east of the country. Jeremy Hanley, the Foreign Office minister, told the Commons that British consular officials had twice visited Paul Adams, the newspaper's correspondent in Lagos, since he was arrested on January 4 during an Ogoniland Day rally.

Haider faces legal action

PROMINENT Austrian intellectuals, entertainers and Jews are seeking legal action against the right-wing populist Jörg Haider (right), for alleged neo-Nazi activity after he praised members of the infamous Waffen SS. Georg Zanger, a lawyer, said yesterday he was filing papers with a court in Klagenfurt in Carinthia, where Mr Haider made his comments last autumn.



Court ups Noir's sentence

AN APPEALS court in Lyon yesterday increased the sentences of three defendants in a political corruption case symbolising high living by French politicians during the 1980s. The court gave Michel Noir, the former mayor of Lyon, and Michel Mouillot, the incumbent mayor of Cannes, suspended 18-month jail terms and ordered Noir's son-in-law, Pierre Botton, to serve three-and-a-half years with another 18 months suspended.

US soldier on rape charge

A UNITED STATES soldier based in South Korea was arrested yesterday on charges of attempted rape after he allegedly broke into a woman's apartment, a US military statement said. Terrence Hines, an army private, was in US military custody after Korean police pursued him from the apartment in the Inaewon district of Seoul, near the country's biggest American military base, the statement said.

Crash toll put at 350

THE international relief group Médecins Sans Frontières said yesterday that at least 350 people had died in Zaire when a cargo plane ploughed into a crowded Kinshasa market, well above the previously announced official death toll. Zaire's authorities said on Tuesday that at least 264 people had died in the crash on Monday, one of the worst civilian air disasters ever.

Ex-communists sell discos

DESPERATELY short of cash, Italy's former communists, the Democratic Socialist Party (PDS) have put their most profitable assets, two discotheques, on the market. The nightclubs Armony, in Reggio Emilia, and Mondonovo, near Bologna, are in the "red belt" of north-central Italy. Both venues are popular with young people from the area, most of whom are unaware of their political past.



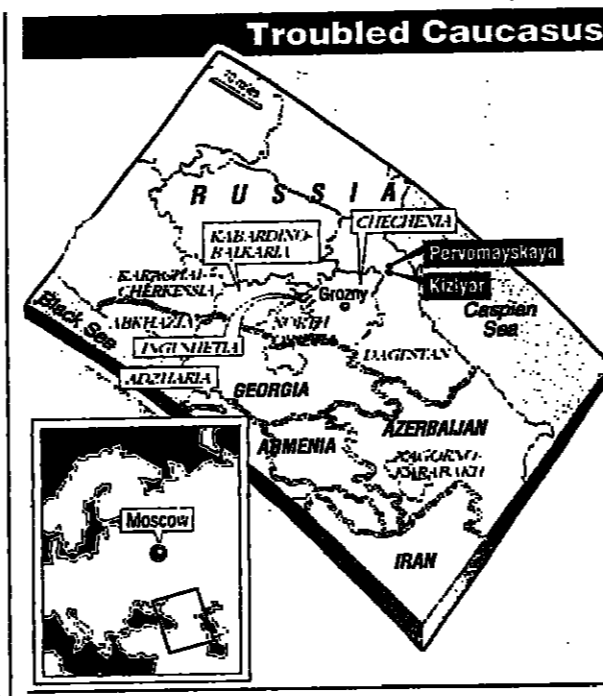
French security officers hold a briefing at the Mitterrand family tomb in the Jarnac cemetery where the former president will be buried today

EU tells Croatia to enforce pact

EUROPEAN UNION governments are increasingly incensed at the Croatian government's reluctance to stop local Croat militias undermining the Bosnian peace agreement in Mostar. Hans Koschnick, the EU-appointed administrator of the ethnically divided southern city, yesterday threatened a complete withdrawal of his civil and police forces later this year unless communal violence ends.

Caucasian tinderbox needs only a spark to start a conflagration

David Hearst in Moscow FOR Dzhokhar Dudayev and his rebel fighters, the choice of a border post in neighbouring Dagestan as the scene of confrontation with Russia was not accidental. Dagestan is a loose patchwork of 40 ethnic minorities, all of which jockey for position. This precarious balance of rival nationalities could easily be upset should Russian troops open fire on hostages from, for example, the Avar or Lezgin communities.



What goes on is enough to make Virginia Bottomley hurl herself over the battlements alongside Tosca. Forget the posturing of Pavarotti and the tantrums of the three tenors, it's the management who stamp their feet at the Royal Opera House.

brief  
Kidnapped  
Asia

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artists sell discs

Rifkind pleads for Beijing to end feud with Patten

# China is asked to bury the hatchet

Andrew Higgins in Beijing

**T**HE Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, will plead with China today to stop treating Chris Patten, the governor of Hong Kong and former Conservative Party chairman, like a political untouchable.

Ending a feud with Mr Patten — condemned by China as "a serpent, a whore and a sinner for all millennia" — is essential to calm jitters in Hong Kong and fears of a turbulent handover of British rule, officials said.

In talks yesterday, China's prime minister, Li Peng, seemed unmoved by warnings of an exodus in the final 18 months of British rule. "This does not matter," he said.

Mr Li's comments, broadcast on China's national television news, followed an appeal by Mr Rifkind to stop what British officials called a "haemorrhaging of confidence" in the colony.

In particular Britain wants China to stop treating Mr Patten like a leper. On his first day in China on Monday, Mr Rifkind urged its foreign minister, Qian Qichen, to open dialogue with Mr Patten, a message to be repeated in talks later today with China's president, Jiang Zemin.

Infuriated by modest political reforms, Chinese officials leave receptions early to avoid having to meet Mr Patten, and there have been suggestions that Beijing wants him excluded from the 1997 handover ceremony.

"They have made their point, now they have to make a decision," a British official said. "There has been a clear deterioration [in relations over Hong Kong], it cannot be regarded as just a blip."

Mr Rifkind met the Chinese leader just hours after Channel 4 broadcast a documentary alleging the use in Chinese orphanages of "dying rooms" to cull unwanted infants. Beijing has condemned the film as a "vicious attack on China."

But yesterday it muted its anger, turning instead on the United States over its policy towards Taiwan.

"The Taiwan issue, if not handled properly, will exert a very destructive role on the development of bilateral relations," President Jiang told the former US president, George Bush, who is visiting the country.

Mr Rifkind said he asked about conditions in China's orphanages and raised the case of the jailed dissident Wei Jingsheng.

"Neither the [Chinese] prime minister nor the for-

ign minister objected to the fact that I raised these subjects," Mr Rifkind said. "But they did not necessarily agree with what I was saying."

Britain has a direct interest in China's human rights record, as the jailing of Mr Wei for 14 years and other episodes unsettle Hong Kong. Applications for emigrant visas to Canada — the destination of choice for Hong Kong professionals — increased by 70 per cent last year.

But Mr Li seemed unmoved by British arguments that China could calm unease by talking to the governor, dropping plans to dismantle Hong Kong's elected Legislative Council and watering down a Bill of Rights.

"We have full confidence in the stable transition in Hong Kong and smooth transfer of power," he said. "We believe that, as long as Hong Kong keeps a good investment and trade environment, then those who have left will return."

But he did repeat China's commitment in the 1984 Joint Declaration to allow the post-1997 Hong Kong Special Administrative Region a high degree of autonomy. "The central government will not send a single official to take up office in the government of the SAR. We will not take away a single penny of Hong Kong's money."



Uphill task... Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind tours the Forbidden City in Beijing yesterday before his talks with China's prime minister, Li Peng. PHOTOGRAPH: GREG BAKER

# Bitter brewery rift leaves Pakistan in low spirits

Gerald Bourke in Islamabad

**A** BITTER battle over Pakistan's leading brewery has caused an acute shortage of locally made beer and spirits in this supposedly "dry" Islamic state, allowing smugglers from India, its arch-enemy, and the Arabian Gulf to cash in.

Murree Brewery, in Rawalpindi, is the country's oldest industrial company, established in 1881 to quench the thirst of British troops across the Indian sub-continent.

The company is facing its biggest challenge. It has been more or less out of action for the past seven months since Sindh province, which consumed 70 per cent of its sales of beer and spirits, banned "imports" of alcohol from Punjab, Murree's home province. Sindh said the ban was justified as the Punjab government had failed to pay overdue taxes on alcohol to Sindh.

Murree took the case to the supreme court, which ordered Punjab to pay its arrears and Sindh to allow unhindered access to Murree's products.

Punjab paid up, but Sindh defied the court's ruling. "The Sindh government showed no respect for the highest court in the land," said Minoor Bhandara, Murree's chairman.

The row has cost prime minister Benazir Bhutto's cash-strapped government millions of rupees in revenue. It has also fuelled rumours that powerful elements in her administration — her controversial husband, the businessman Asif Zardari, in particular — stand to gain handsomely from the chaos in the lucrative drinks trade.

Sources in the drinks

trade believe the ban, which was relaxed recently to allow a trickle of Murree's products into Sindh, was designed to facilitate Byram Avari, a wealthy hotelier. He has a longstanding ambition to build a brewery and distillery in Karachi, the Sindh capital.

Mr Avari denies his project — which has been halted by a legal appeal from Murree Brewery — is sponsored by Mr Zardari. "Mr Zardari is a friend. What does that prove? I'm also on first-name terms with many of the leaders of the opposition," he said.

Only the country's religious minorities, which account for less than 3 per cent of the estimated 130 million population, can legally drink. Some are obliged to plead alcoholism to secure their entitlements.

But many Muslims, including members of the country's elite, imbibe the best of imported booze with impunity behind closed doors.

The Koran condemns drinking and makes it clear that Muslims would be better off avoiding alcohol altogether.

Mr Bhandara, having failed to get the supreme court to honour its verdict — and when his contacts, such as Mr Zardari, proved to no avail — appealed to Ms Bhutto in an advertisement in one of the country's newspapers.

The advertisement pointed to the Sindh government's refusal to grant access to Murree's products, the loss of jobs and tax revenue this entailed, and the smuggling it encouraged.

Lesser victims of the squabble, however, will also have to wait for the court to enforce the verdict to determine how best to slake their thirst.

# Indian law aims to curb female infanticide

Suzanne Goldenberg in New Delhi

**I**NDIA has banned the misuse of ultrasound, amniocentesis and other tests used to determine the sex of a fetus, in an attempt to limit deliberate abortions of girls.

The law, which took effect this month, carries a heavy fine and a three-year jail term for parents and doctors involved in the abortion of a healthy fetus. It follows last year's ban on clinics that specialise in determining the sex of fetuses, and restricts the use of such tests to detecting genetic diseases.

Women's activists argue that laws are not enough to save baby girls in a society where female children are viewed primarily as a financial burden. A social transformation is required.

In many Indian communities, custom demands that each stage in a girl's life — must be marked by a series of costly rituals.

Increasing commercialism has magnified the cost of weddings especially. Although dowries are illegal, grooms' families are said to be ever more greedy, with sons in the civil service commanding a

price stretching into hundreds of thousands of rupees.

At the same time, people want fewer children and are unwilling to have large families just to satisfy the desire for a son.

Social activists and village midwives say abortion of girl fetuses is the modern, middle-class variant of an ancient practice of female infanticide.

In the northern states of Haryana and Punjab, where fertile lands guarantee a standard of living well above the national average, the last decade has seen a boom in ultrasound clinics, identified by neon signs on the main roads of market towns. In these areas, there are already only 88 girls for 100 boys.

At the other end of the country, in the southern state of Tamil Nadu, surveys by women's groups claim half of all newborn girls are killed. Girls are most at risk if their mother already has a daughter. The women say they have little choice but to sacrifice their daughters.

"My husband would not have left if it had been a boy," said Amaravati, a villager in Kannapuram, Tamil Nadu. "I had to kill it. There was no alternative. God made a plan

for us to suffer, but we killed the baby and escaped."

Across India, there is little reliable data on how many babies are sacrificed to the cult of the boy child. But between 1981 and 1991, the number of females per 1,000 males declined from 934 to 929, according to the latest census. In developed countries there are 1,060 females for every 1,000 males.

While the proliferation of abortion clinics may be more visible, female infanticide is probably more widespread. Infant mortality figures do not take account of the tiny corpses buried secretly in the backyard or dumped in the jungle. Some reports claim that in drought-stricken and poor areas, it is a miracle if a second daughter survives.

It is generally agreed that female infanticide is spreading from upper-caste communities to areas where daughters once were tolerated.

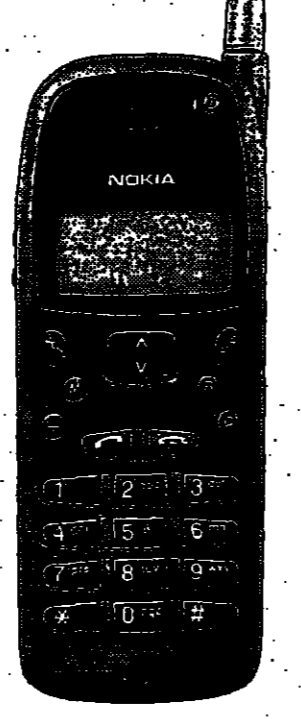
All across the country, the methods of dispatch are similar: poisoning by locally made concoctions; suffocation by forcing a few grains of unhusked rice down tiny throats; starvation or neglect. Some babies are buried alive. Every village has someone who is expert at killing.

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The Gulf war: the truth

Well, more than we were told at the time, anyway

ONLY five years have passed since the Gulf war. Yet in those five years the public picture of what happened in the West's most demanding post-Vietnam military operation has altered dramatically. Several of the important gaps are being filled in by the BBC's current Gulf war documentary series, although many questions still remain unanswered, even there.

down a single Scud. The world was fed a legend because of the crucial political importance of preventing an Israeli retaliation which might split the Arabs from the Western coalition. Many suspected at the time that Patriot power was a myth. Now it's official. The Patriot is not the only myth. The last-ditch diplomatic meetings in Geneva before the expiry of the UN ultimatum turn out to have been a necessary sham to win the last three or four pro-war votes in the US Congress rather than a real chance of a negotiated peace. The majority reaction in the White House to Saddam's invasion was that the US could live with it, rather than that they must repel it, influenced by the unpopularity of Vietnam. Colin Powell wanted to give sanctions two years to bite before mounting a military response. In the first exciting hours of the war, it seemed as if precision bombing would finish the thing off "before the next commercial break", as General Powell put it. In fact, the bombing was not as precise as we were told and the Americans soon found themselves, to quote General Powell again, "bombing rubble with million dollar missiles". The US military's doubts were reported in general terms at the time, but the two programmes broadcast so far show that the scale of scepticism was far greater than has yet emerged.

The hawks versus the lone wolf

What exactly does Mr Yeltsin think he's up to in Chechnia?

BORIS YELTSIN has been demanding more "explanations" over Chechnia from his generals. If he could explain what Russian policy has been trying to achieve there over the past year, his outrage might be more convincing. At the end of December 1994, Mr Yeltsin emerged from hospital to order a halt to bombing raids on civilian Chechen areas - resumed the next day when an orphanage was destroyed. This time Russian forces have been on the receiving end, wholly outmanoeuvred in a daring raid staged by Chechen "lone wolf" fighters into the neighbouring republic of Dagestan. But the question remains: what is the Russian aim in Chechnia and is there the slightest hope of it being achieved?

ment. Civilians continued to die and there was little effort to win hearts and minds. After an assassination attempt in September on Mr Yeltsin's envoy, the Kremlin hawks appear to have persuaded him that the military option should be resumed. Within weeks the defence and interior ministry forces were once again waging war without effective political control by the President or authorisation by the Russian Duma. They have been singularly ineffective: assassination attempts and ambushes have continued at regular intervals and the flow of body bags has resumed. In December Mr Yeltsin signalled a definitive end to seeking a negotiated solution by ordering elections for a new regional government in Chechnia to coincide with the national parliamentary elections. This was an empty exercise, criticised as "prematuration" by the OSCE mission which was trying to broker a deal. Even Moscow's own man in Chechnia, the former Communist Doku Zavgayev, was dubious at first. The elections set off a new bout of fighting as rebels occupied the second largest city of Gudermes on the eve of a meaningless poll.

A breathless hush in the Close

Bishops are right to move to more modest accommodation

CORPORATIONS the world over have been forced to "downsize": the Civil Service has been cut back sharply; army chiefs have had to trim their lifestyles. It is hardly surprising that the Church Commissioners - whose speculative investments lost £800 million at book value in the early 1990s - should start to question whether bishops should continue to live in palatial surroundings. The first to have to call in Pickfords is the Bishop of Portsmouth whose instruction to move out of his £1 million mansion was triggered by a novel form of Thatcherism - the prohibitive cost of renovating one of Britain's largest thatched houses. As part of an economy drive by the Commissioners he will have to conform more closely to the new standards - that a house should have six bedrooms, a dining room for 12, a meeting room for 30 and limited grounds.

many of whom have criticised the Government for not doing more to help the urban poor, should practise more closely what they preach. The sadness is that it is economic necessity rather than moral leadership that has been the spur. But this shouldn't be a signal for wholesale eviction. In cases where bishops live within the precincts of their cathedrals their homes may be part of a communal heritage enjoyed by a wider community. To force them to move to large houses - by definition likely to be in posh middle class areas - could widen the social gap between bishop and flock making the bishop even remoter than now. It would be better to improve public access and explore revenue raising schemes than to sell off historic sites. But these are exceptions. In general, the Church must move with the times. Europe has bicycling monarchs: we will just have to learn to live with bishops without palaces.



Letters to the Editor

Why prison isn't working

AS CHAIRMAN of the Board of Visitors at Whitemoor Prison, I have seen at first hand the effects of years of never-ending initiatives from Civil Servants and the Home Office. The Prison Service needs time to consolidate without further interference. Last year the watchdog was security and our board knows more than many the high priority this needs. This year it is finance - or the lack of it. Many prisons, such as Holloway, are finding it extremely difficult to run any type of constructive regime. This is at a time when the Home Secretary is still looking into the possibility of spending vast amounts of money building and running a "supermax" style of prison. If, after spending over £8m on Whitemoor, £2m-plus at Full Sutton and as yet unknown amounts at Long Haven and Frankland to make them top-security prisons, they still appear not to be secure enough for high-risk prisoners - contrary to the local Board's opinion - the whole episode has been a waste of taxpayers' money in this climate of cut-backs. Penelope Lambert, Chairman, Board of Visitors, HMP Whitemoor, Cambridgeshire PE15 0PR.

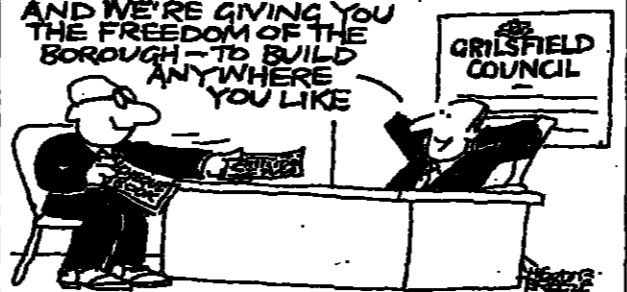
Odds against the stakeholder

IT IS just not possible to embrace globalisation and at the same time promise a cosy stakeholder future where all benefit (Stake that claim, January 9). The biggest stake most people want out of society is secure employment and the meeting of basic social needs. Globalisation will ensure the opposite. Under the pressure to be internationally competitive, automation is sweeping through manufacturing and services and facilitating frenzied downsizing. Lowered tariff barriers and cheap labour in Asia and Eastern Europe have cut jobs, either through competition from imports, or through relocation. The inward flow of investment now enthusiastically sought by Tony Blair during his Asian tour has resulted in the replacement of existing jobs, increased imports of components, and removed R&D to other countries. It has made jobs more vulnerable to decisions made outside the country. Adequate taxation is fundamental to the provision of the kind of work that can't be automated or provided by foreign imports. This includes infrastructural renewal of our villages, towns and cities, and face-to-face caring jobs.

Both require substantial public money yet Tony Blair instead talks of tax rates that are internationally competitive, ie lower. Tony Blair's next visit should be to the Continent to link up with our neighbours and push for the protectionist policies which underpinned the early success of the Asian Tigers. Europe could then rebuild its economy so that it remains in control of the "techno-structure" - including most full-time workers, the part-time employed, low-paid women, the unemployed and the pensioners - are to be involved in the way that their stakes are placed in the capitalist market? Michael Barratt Brown, Robin Hood Farm, Bastlow, Bakewell, Derbyshire DE4 1PQ.

THE original concept of stakeholder recognises that companies are social institutions, where economic exchange rests on a bedrock of trust and co-operation. Social accounting tracks different stakeholder views, needed if the business community is to move beyond a sole focus on dividends for shareholders. The creation of a stakeholder economy will depend on the extent to which our public institutions and the business community can be made accountable to all those who have a stake in their prosperity and future development. To the old cry of "taxation without representation", we add "no stake without a voice". Richard Evans, Traidcroft, Ed Mayo, New Economics Foundation, neweconomics@gn.ap.org Vine Court, 112-116 Whitechapel Road, London E1 1JE.

TONY BLAIR should take note that underpinning Singapore's economic policies is a commitment to maintaining the value of the Singapore dollar. In 1984, £1 was equal to S\$3.40 but today it buys S\$2.20. Twenty-five years ago, £1 was equal to US\$2.40. Today, against a weak US dollar, £1 is equal to US\$1.52. So much money has been taken from the wage packets of the British people and wasted that Government can no longer meet its social contract to repay that money in the form of pensions that keep up with the real rate of inflation. Switching to a central Provident Fund taking 22 per cent or more from income merely provides that much more opportunity for Government to behave incompetently. Len Webster, Marshall Road, Warley, W Midlands B68 9ED.



Cheap tricks from rotten boroughs

SOME residents of Oxford Sare up in arms over the prospect of a "downmarket Disneyland" being built near their homes. The Oxford plan makes old Oxford wince, January 8). They're in good company. Perhaps the saddest thing about this story is that it can be mirrored in dozens of other places up and down the country. Crinkly tin or brick-clad "sheds" have sprouted (and continue to sprout) on publicly owned land, which the layman might (naively) think had been acquired with his or her taxes for some kind of wider public benefit - and not for the local council to flog off to some property developer to raise quick bucks.

What to do? Well, for a start, the Government should act to stop local councils from giving planning permission for developments on land which they own. Development proposals for such sites ought to be made the subject of a public inquiry, rather than being written into the council's own local plan for the area - or even, in some cases, before planning permission is granted contrary to the local plan. The current wave of cheque-book planning by local councils should be brought to an end. Philip Bisset, 24 Brunswick Court, Duke Street, Swansea SA1 4HZ.

An update on that Byker Grove storyline

BEATRIX Campbell's column (Comment page, January 9) is opinion loosely attached to a one-sided and inaccurate account of recent events here. During October and November, it became clear that pupils were being harassed on their way through the nearby Metro station. Items of property were being taken from them with threats. The police were alerted and efforts were made to support pupils. Teaching staff voluntarily patrolled the Metro station as school dismissed. CID officers kept the area under observation but the youths were sufficiently astute to accommodate the increased supervision of the area and the problem continued. There was no evidence that this had one incident (in which a racist insult had been hurled at her in a corridor by an unidentified and unseen pupil immediately following the Metro station incident. Gosforth High staff have been assisting in their support for Gauri and her return to school. However, extensive enquiries have failed to find any evidence to support the

developed between the white and black youths while teachers and police attempted to see that pupils were safe. On the succeeding Friday there was a racial attack on Asian pupils playing football on the school field by white youths who scaled a remote part of the school fence. The origin of this attack was undoubtedly the incident at the Metro station. I have never refused to see "black leaders". I am unaware of any attempt by "black leaders" to bring racial issues to the attention of the school and the police prior to the Metro station incident. The Gauri Vedhara story was first brought to my attention by a local newspaper reporter. When I eventually saw Gauri and her mother, Gauri told me she had had one incident in which a racist insult had been hurled at her in a corridor by an unidentified and unseen pupil immediately following the Metro station incident. Gosforth High staff have been assisting in their support for Gauri and her return to school. However, extensive enquiries have failed to find any evidence to support the

kind of allegations reported in your column. Such incidents must happen in every school with black pupils. Young people bring to school attitudes learned from family and friends. Schools can make a difference; but it is naive to believe that education alone can resolve these problems. It is naive to imply that this school is so lacking in confidence that it is unable to accept that such behaviour happens. The evidence of our openness with parents about difficult issues such as drugs and bullying would suggest that such charges are misdirected. The notion that the school is responsible for the criminal behaviour of youths robbing pupils at the Metro station by concentrating on its A-level pupils is absurd. Keith Nancekivell, Headteacher, Gosforth High School, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 2JH. Please include a full postal address, even an e-mailed address, and a telephone number. We may edit letters; shorter ones are more likely to appear. We regret we cannot acknowledge those not used.

Greatly exaggerated rumours

THE recent case of the doctor certifying a death when in fact the patient was still alive raises a serious question (Privatising the grim reaper, January 7). Are doctors sufficiently well trained in declaring a person dead, particularly where a history of nervous disease is concerned? This matter greatly concerns me. I suffer seriously from narcolepsy and, at the age of 70, demise is possible in the near future and I don't fancy being burnt alive. I know what I am talking about, having had the disease all my life, and considerable experience at the hands of the neurological department of King's College Hospital. A circumstance could arise where I became temporarily paralysed and, to make the case more interesting, I would have no pulse! I can remember two instances where this happened to other people. In one, the "deceased" awoke on a slab in a mortuary and, in the other, an undertaker's assistant heard

the "deceased" person snoring. Serious cases of narcolepsy are very rare and so, it seems, are the chances of a general practitioner checking a person with no obvious pulse, but who is still alive. It is time to investigate this matter, which must concern many. E Wagland, 19 Carleton Road, London N7 0GZ. THE funeral manager of Cobbold's undertakers stated of Daphne Banks: "We've never had anything like this happen before." How does he know? Mary-Rose Benton, 48 Windermere Way, Wors DY13 9QJ. China syndrome ISN'T it a bit iffy us lecturing the Chinese about tying babies to beds when we chain pregnant women to them? Bruce Robinson, Crum Farm, Dorstone, Hereford HR3 6AD.

Voice of truth

MAX Nottingham's claim (Letters, January 10) to have appeared on 311 radio programmes in 1986 confirms my fears about phone-ins. Broadcasters claim they are a wonderful opportunity for people to have their say when, in fact, they are just another opportunity to save some money. Phone-ins are clearly not representing the public, just the vocal and opinionated. Roger Hyam, 13 Springvalley Terrace, Edinburgh EH10 4QB. YOUR caption to the picture of Chechen rebel leader Salman Raduyev (Foreign news, January 10) states that his headband "bears the unambiguous motto: 'Kamlkaze fighter'". Actually it says (in Arabic): 'There is no god except Allah and Mohammed is the Messenger of Allah.' Not a Kamlkaze in sight. Inayat Bunglawaala, The Young Muslims UK, Courtland Avenue, Ilford, Essex IG7.

A Country Diary

CROOK, CO DURHAM: By early afternoon on Christmas Eve the presents had been brought, the cupboards were full and there were no more preparations to make. Time, then to walk away from crowded shops, out across the deserted fields that surround this small town at the foot of Weardale. A thin covering of wet snow had fallen but not frozen, sticking to every twig and blade of grass and whitening the hills to the north and east. At first the fields seemed almost lifeless, with just a few redwing feeding on hawthorn berries and a covey of partridges sitting half buried in the snow. Then we spotted a small group of three fast-flying birds, almost too high to identify with the naked eye but whose rapid wing beats and flight pattern of climbs and dives was unmistakable. We watched the snipe through binoculars as they descended steeply into a pasture two fields away, joining a party of a dozen similar birds that were poking their long beaks through the slushy snow into muddy hollows. I have watched snipe here occasionally over many years, but over the last decade they have become rarer as open cast mining has gradually transformed the landscape. One by one, the unimproved, poorly-drained pastures have been stripped, mined and then restored and drained, removing the rusty, permanent wet hollows and temporary ponds that were once perfect snipe feeding grounds. In the early years after restoration the worm population, food source for these waders, is almost non-existent. This year, the largest I had seen here for many years, had congregated on ground that had escaped earth-movers and draglines. We returned to look for them on Christmas Day, but by then the freeze had set in, an armour of ice protected the worms from their probing beaks, and they had moved on. PHIL GATES

صكنا من الامم



Diary  
Matthew Norman

I AM sad to learn from the Daily Telegraph that Lord Colyton has died once again at the age of 94. The Telegraph thought it was all over for the former Colonial Affairs Minister on December 28, and ran the first obituary, but an apology revealed that it wasn't over. It is now, though, and the second obituary appeared yesterday. Intriguingly, in the 13 days between the two obits, Lord Colyton's reputation in print has markedly improved. Obituaries began by dwelling on how, in 1934, his outspoken pronouncement, apparently ruling out independence for Cyprus, "sparked off fierce riots in the island, and entailed passions that continued to simmer..." However, the Colyton of Obituary Two "successfully deployed his affability and charm to stave off a number of damaging confrontations". And where, in late December, Lord Colyton had been "suddenly dropped" by Anthony Eden in 1955, in early January he had refused important posts because "his political ambitions were satisfied". From a linguistic bungler to a masterly statesman in a fortnight... it's a miracle. To ensure your own flattering Daily Telegraph obituary, please follow this simple three-point plan: 1) Fake your own death. Regie Perrin-style; 2) Complain bitterly when the first piece appears; 3) Die.

A CARTOON drawing of a grinning little boy, one of several characters created to cheer up the wards of children's unit in Dundee's Ninewells Hospital, has been censured after an unnamed visitor to the ward complained that his bare bottom might be dangerous. Staff have now felt-tipped a pair of shorts over his buttocks.

It is his new diet that occupies my friend Terry Major-Ball when I call. Terry was taken ill before Christmas with high blood sugar, and has been advised to drop two stone in weight. In truth, he sounds a little glum. "It's a very strict diet, and it's not easy for me. When I get agitated, I'm a terrible nibbler. Now I can only nibble on carrots. Still, I'm getting used to it." The doctors have even suggested he start going to a gym. "It's not a great one for that, though. The thought of me prancing around in a leotard... No, I think I'll leave all that gym business to Princess Diana." Terry paused for thought. "I've nothing against it, though. If you ever interview the Green Goddess, do give her my regards. She seems a very nice lady."

MEANWHILE, just when everything seemed to be going smoothly for Terry's little brother, the Prime Minister has made a rare mistake. "While you were there," he told Mr Tony Blair on Tuesday, regarding the trip to Japan, "you might perhaps have been better occupied if you had travelled on the privatised Japanese railway, which you and your colleagues oppose." Oh dear. As Labour's Brian Wilson reluctantly points out, 80 per cent of Japan's railway network remains in public ownership; the Japanese have rejected splitting up ownership of trains and track; and the country's super-quick bullet trains were funded by the public sector. Sound-bite politics are all very fine, of course, but we must always, always check our facts.

I AM pleased to note that my report last week about the Bookings, whose winsome catchphrase is "It's good to stalk", has also caught the imaginations of others. Yesterday, it turned up in both a Sun leader and a column in the Daily Mirror. Taking into account its mysterious appearance in last Thursday's Independent, the total now stands at four.

EAST Anglians keener to own their own copy of the biography of Prince Charles than they are to pay the cover price of £20 need worry no more. One Norfolk retailer is happy to sell the book on special offer, at a bargain £9.99. It is the estate shop at Sandringham.



# Disease which is crippling our politics

## Commentary Hugo Young

THE offence many Labour people take against women-only short-lists of nominees for parliamentary seats has almost nothing to do with the law. Would that such scrupulous regard did possess the people's party! On the contrary, any passing concern that the rule breaks the law is overshadowed by delight at the certainty that it will now be abandoned. The law turns out to be mostly a pretext, serving murky passions. The first of these is politics. When women-only rule was hushed through the 1993 party conference, created as the currency that purchased the MSF union's decisive support for the then *cause célèbre* of party democracy, one member's one vote, elements of the high command were worried. They thought it would not be popular, and under the Blair regime this concern has intensified. The rule epitomised all that the Daily Mail says Middle England will not tolerate, foreshadowing a monstrous regiment of feminists entering the Commons on a cloud of political correctness. It is not for this that stakeholder democracy was born. Some of Mr Blair's people have more precise objections. They worry about the kind of women who have sometimes been attracted into the lists. These are, appealing to say, "political" women, activists as well as feminists, very possibly lefties, and rather less likely than a superannuated coal miner to perform as reliable lobby fodder. If there is a distinguishing characteristic of Labour women politicians it is that few of them — having faced a long struggle for recognition — will feel it their prime duty to feed themselves without demur to the party whips. The second undertow is semi-naked prejudice. Naturally, this can never be admitted, even in the Tory Party. But single-sex short-listing was seen as the most direct way for Labour to contest a systematic bias, which is only slightly more visible among Conservative than Labour functionaries, against letting women into politics at all. Because such prejudice-injection has in some fields become vulnerable to legal challenge, its practitioners have learned how to make it both informal and deniable. But it inhabits the heart of

to abandoning it after the next election. All the same, I regret that it was challenged so soon. The objectors were within their rights, but the gains from a brief, one-off spell of positive discrimination, pushing into Parliament perhaps 30 women who would otherwise have the odds stacked against them, would be great. These odds are massive, and massively unfair. Of 631 MPs elected in 1992, only 60 were women. This is the fruit of a social pattern nourished for generations in all parties, which its present inheritors still have the greatest reluctance to re-examine. The fact that gender-bias has become the vice that seldom declares its name does nothing to undermine its strength. Prejudice has simply retreated into the closet deliberations of selection committees, whether at ward level in the

## What the Leeds industrial tribunal decreed comes as a mighty relief to male chauvinists

Labour Party or in the truly monstrous regiment of defunct Tory Party up and down the country. As a result, with a minority of brave exceptions, women as a class are still deterred from attempting to get into politics. Of the many jubilant comments made on Tuesday's judgment, none better reveals the bad faith of many who pretend to oppose discrimination than the coarse injunction to women to "win on merit and in an open contest". Being excluded from the contest, they cannot put

## You don't give us the Earth, we'll take it



George Monbiot

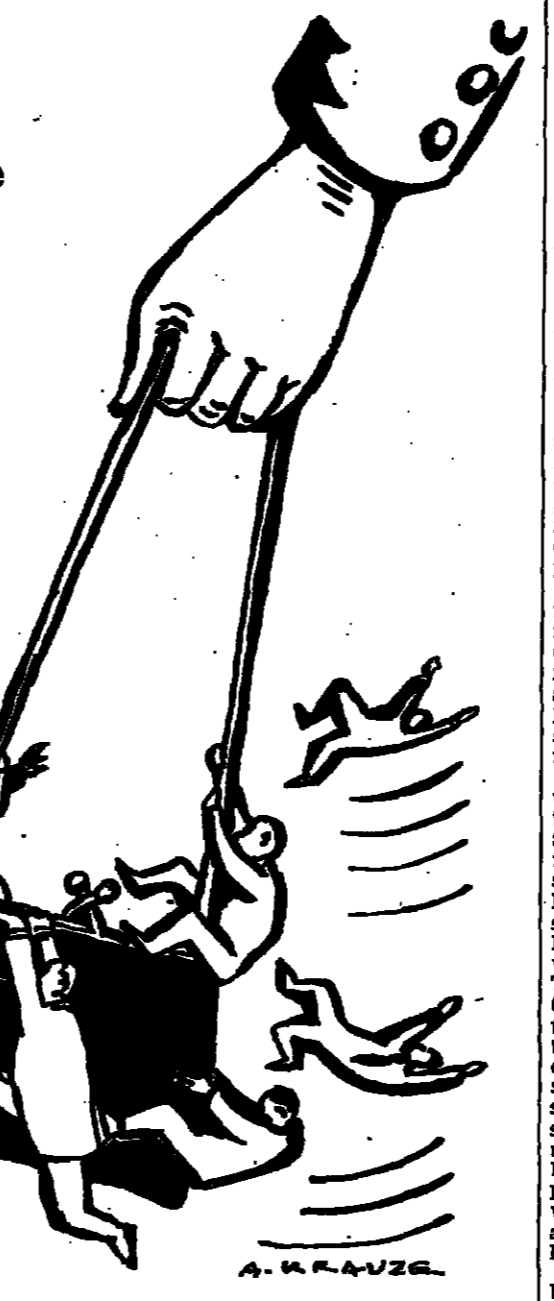
THE Newbury protesters faced an almost impossible situation. They knew that 400 security guards were due to move on to the route of the bypass on Tuesday, yet only 30 people were on hand to stop them. Reinforcements were coming from other parts of the country but wouldn't arrive in time. Their response contained something of the blazing élan of the Green Party's 10-mile march. Reinforcements were coming from other parts of the country but wouldn't arrive in time. Their response contained something of the blazing élan of the Green Party's 10-mile march. Reinforcements were coming from other parts of the country but wouldn't arrive in time. Their response contained something of the blazing élan of the Green Party's 10-mile march.

lightly over problems the rest of us would see as insuperable. Their self-education has spawned a multitude of monstrosities: Millenniumist fantasies, cargo cults, conspiracy theories, tales of manifestations and alien abductions crackle around the camp fires. Political awakening and half-baked religious syncretism often seem to be inseparable — last year a Hopi Indian woman was trying to discourage activists from bastardising her people's rituals. While most of society is afflicted with an excess of discrimination, the protest camps seem to suffer from too little. But out of this mess of wishful thinking and credulity is emerging not, as one might have expected, an ascetic form of moral relativism infusing so many young people in Britain, but a system of thought which, as it sheds its excesses, is gradually accreting into a new and workable politics. For many people ill-served by this government, the protest message is beginning to make more sense than the bulletins from Walworth Road. The movement has frequently been described as a flowering of single-issue politics, but only by those who have had little contact with its participants. Among those swaying in the tree tops at Newbury, discussions range from transport policy to the detention of immigrants, through alternative currencies, peace and animal welfare, structural adjustment in the Third World, land reform, air pollution, housing policy and the judiciary. Road-building is top of today's list, but when that battle is over, many activists will move on to the fringes of other people's concern towards the centre. Four years ago, when the first protesters arrived on Twyford Down, few people had paused to think twice about the roads programme. Within two years it had reached the front page of every national newspaper. Whether it wins or loses at Newbury, there are plenty of political lessons to be learned from the direct-action movement. It has figured out how to command attention and alter the terms of a political debate. Most importantly, it has rediscovered something the rest of us seem to have forgotten. It has learned that the meek do not inherit the Earth, but stand by while the presumptuous snatch it from them. If the disenfranchised of Britain are once more to become politically engaged, they must, like these activists, have the impudence to snatch it back.

# Swing of the handbag

LADY Thatcher is "back in town". What excitement for the media pundits and what gloom for the electoral tacticians of No 10. Whatever she does or says is dissected by commentators using their own prejudices. Her protestation of innocence and unconditional support for John Major will be disregarded. Margaret Thatcher is certainly no innocent. She must have realised the fury that her Keith Joseph Memorial Lecture tonight will create at a time when most Tories yearn for calm. Even so, I do not believe her intervention is mischievous, let alone malign; she will be making a wholly natural contribution to the Tory debate. She will remind Conservatives that they now have the prospect of some political recovery. Current poll ratings are perverse. Barely a soul at Westminster believes Labour's mammoth lead is other than an illusion. As the months slide by, the humanness of the general election will mean that the politics of "choice" will replace those of "protest". The Budget has been a reasonable success and Ken Clarke must now hope he can hold the line with no further changes in taxation or public spending. The signs are for a modest revival in consumer spending and an improvement in political fortunes. Once Tory poll ratings improve — even modestly — the acrimony and neurosis at Westminster will abate. I welcome Margaret Thatcher's clear message tonight that there should be an early turn in our electoral fortunes. The content of the Thatcher speech is not as significant as its style and circumstance. The speech was planned months ago and could not have been retimed without even more speculation than was caused by its delivery. There must be some limit to the influence of Emma Nicholson. The Thatcher press office was meticulous in securing advance notice for its presentation and must have exceeded beyond expectations — but that is a tribute to current Tory doctrinal difficulties. I do not challenge myself party. Margaret Thatcher has a broadly established post-prime ministerial role. She wants her party to gain a broadly right-winging by which she thinks from the early years of her government.

Margaret Thatcher re-emerges tonight to give a major speech which is intended to keep the Tories on the right path. John Fen assesses the significance of what she will say



of Cabinet members will attend. Peter Lind Michael Portillo may have, but I would ideally have found a chair for Geoffrey Ho good Tory who much ad Keith Joseph's socialists. Alas, I wasn't consulted. I do not challenge myself party. Margaret Thatcher has a broadly established post-prime ministerial role. She wants her party to gain a broadly right-winging by which she thinks from the early years of her government.

She also emphasises the importance of firm rhetoric and of being able to convey a sense of political firmness and direction. This message can grate, particularly with those fastidious enough to compare the Thatcher achievement closely with the rhetoric. That, however, is Westminster pentry. Her government presided over substantial economic changes; cut government borrowing, reformed the unions and carried out privatisation. This was accompanied by a self-confident assertion of government objectives

and an ability to convince the public that she knew what she wanted and would not be pushed around by union leaders or foreign potentates. To many Tories this recollection of Margaret Thatcher is a nostalgic memory, and one that has faded from practical politics. The challenge for Thatcher is how the Conservatives can renew their policies, keeping them right-wing, contemporary, and not merely an echo of the eighties. Tonight's speech, in dealing with economic and social affairs, again warns against the

cent support in this morning's ICM opinion poll. But an increasingly influential segment of the party believes the opposite. They think the revolution did not go far enough. They sense the absence of a coherent anti-Thatcherite alternative. Many of the next generation of Tory MPs — the people who will fill the places left by the defectors and the retirees — long to reconnect with the Thatcher years. So when the old leader speaks, they are powerless to resist.

## Why the lad's not for returning again

Martin Kettle argues that Thatcherism destroyed the Conservative Party and now it must finally bury her

MARGARET Thatcher's interventions in Conservative politics bring diminishing returns. Every year at party conference the standing ovation gets a little shorter and the acclaim a touch more effortful. Yet she remains the pivotal figure of contemporary Tory politics. She will never return as leader, but to dismiss her as burned-out is completely wrong. As Andrew Gamble writes in the current New Left Review, the battle over the

means the Thatcherite legacy of the party's uncertainty about its future. She is trying to decide whether Thatcherism has a future. Her 15-year reign is an unprecedented period of power and she has defined a new political identity to which all official parties had to accommodate. But she has dimmed. When she returns to the party, she will be revived rather than collapsed. Yet in the last three years the Tories have plummeted to fresh depths of unpopularity which Thatcher never touched, even in the final months before her overthrow. The old Toryism of Macmillan and Heath is unrecognisable. The question which the party now faces is whether Thatcher's legacy provides what Gamble calls "the basis for an alternative tradition". Many in the party — and probably most outside observers too — believe that

Thatcherism destroyed the Conservative Party. Thatcherism's triple obsession with possessive individualism, anti-Europeanism, and the destruction of traditional institutions generated a heady decade of popular enthusiasm. Yet in the end, these critics believe, it undermined Conservatism from inside. The party was purged to destruction by permanent revolution. The landmarks of traditional Toryism were obliterated. Hence the party's current predicament — only 26 per

cent support in this morning's ICM opinion poll. But an increasingly influential segment of the party believes the opposite. They think the revolution did not go far enough. They sense the absence of a coherent anti-Thatcherite alternative. Many of the next generation of Tory MPs — the people who will fill the places left by the defectors and the retirees — long to reconnect with the Thatcher years. So when the old leader speaks, they are powerless to resist.

### Mass'ari Must Stay!

Public launch meeting of the campaign to stop the deportation of Saudi Opposition leader Prof. Muhammed Al Massari.

Monday 15th January 1996

Committee Room 14, House of Commons Westminster

7.00pm

Speakers

Liberal Democrat Peer Lord Avebury  
George Galloway MP  
Muhammed Al Massari  
And others...

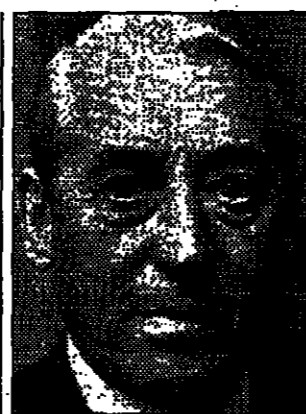
All Welcome

Lord Colyton

Last act to play the empire

LORD Colyton, better known as Henry Hopkinson, who has died aged 94, repeatedly blighted a distinguished diplomatic and political career by his refusal to give up the imperial delusion...

ber, held a pro-Smith meeting supported by the far-right Monday Club and the semi-fascist Greater Britain Movement...



Colyton... sacked by Eden

ter, and a half-American rowly ret, 1950. On the recommendation of Lytton and Eden, he named him Overseas Secretary when the crates took over in 1954...

He was for gun control, and the National Rifle Association swore revenge. He was an early campaigner against cigarette advertising and sales to teenagers...

Lord Colyton, Henry Lennox d'Aubigny Hopkinson, diplomat and politician, born January 3, 1902; died January 6, 1996.

Mike Synar

A liberal proud of his enemies

MIKE Synar, a liberal Democrat who was elected to Congress eight times by a conservative and largely rural district of Oklahoma...



Synar... ardent crusader

But he lost the Democratic primary to a retired local schoolteacher, campaigning from a small van as the underdog. Synar lost the primary...

Birthdays

Graham Allen, Labour MP, 63; The Rt Rev John Baker, former Bishop of Salisbury, 88; Sir Alan Bonefont, director, Henry Moore Foundation, 68; Kathleen Byron, actress, 72; Anna Calder-Marshall, actress, 43; David Cecil, racehorse breeder, and Henry Cecil, racehorse trainer, both 85; Jean Chastan QC, prime minister of Canada, 82; Jason Crenshaw, actor, 33; Ben Crenshaw, golfer, 44; Neville Duke, test pilot, 74; Ann Firbank, actress, 62; Barry Fitzgerald, sculptor, 66; Phyllis Logan, actress, 40; Mick MacMillan, wrestler, 68; Gavin Miller, television producer, 58; Brian Moore, rugby player, 36; Sir Alastair Morton, UK chairman, Eurotunnel, 58; Sir Anthony Nutting, former MP and government minister, 76; Jim Parry, governor, Wrexham, 84; Bryan Robertson, former England football captain, 35; Air Chief Marshal Sir John Rogers, 68; Arthur Scargill, president, National Union of Mineworkers, 58; John Sessions, actor and comedian, 43; Air Commodore Roy Tumbin, former director, WRAF, 70; Rod Taylor, actor, 67; Ronald Tress, economist, 81.

Death Notices

BILL, Professor R.P. (Ronald) Bell, FRS, 63, died on 28 January 1996 at the Kingston Nursing Home, London, aged 63. He was a member of the Royal Society, Honorary Fellow of Balliol College, Oxford, and a past president of the British Ecological Society. Burial on 12 January at 12.30 pm in the church of St Andrew, London. Friends are invited to a service at 11.30 am on 15 January, Golders Green, No flowers.

In Memoriam

OVERSEAS, Thomas, 1925-1994, Publisher, died on 28 January 1996. He is remembered with great affection.

Engagements

MARTINUS-STANLEY, Derek and Elton Martinus are pleased to announce the wedding of their son, Martinus, to the daughter of Mr and Mrs W.H.M. Buckley, on 11 February 1996, at the Church of St Andrew, London. Reception at the Grosvenor House Hotel, London. The bride is accompanied by her mother, Mrs W.H.M. Buckley.

Letters

John Coble writes: In the late sixties I went to see Hamish Inchob (obituary, January 4) perform at the Queen's Hotel, Forfar, only to discover that all tickets had been sold. Consoling myself with a few pints of heavy in one of the bars, I became aware of a guitar being tuned. Following the band, I came to notice where Hamish was warming up. I sat down on the floor and he began to stog — and he sang and sang, to me — no one else was there. It was fantastic. After about an hour, he stopped, rose from his chair, winked at me, barked that laugh of his and went to perform his concert.

Chris Birch writes: When June Fisher (obituary, December 6) contracted tuberculosis 30 years ago and was told that she should abandon teaching and 'have a quiverful of children' instead, she retorted 'I'll have a quiverful of them in Peckham Comprehensive. And she did not take 'early retirement' in 1992. Although terminally ill, she continued as head of Catford County School until last December, when she was five years past the normal retirement age. June joined the Communist Party in 1960, on the day of Harry Pollitt's funeral, long before she met her second husband, Sam Fisher. She was immensely proud of their elder son's work in the Young Communist League and remained a member of the CP until it dissolved in 1991. Her Communist principles permeated all she did. But she was first and foremost a teacher and a National Union of Teachers member. She gave her life to education and her heart to Catford County.

Another Day

January 11, 1767: Greatest Snow, & severest Weather I ever remember. Only one Woman at Church. General Kenney when I asked to Dinner, with Gaffer Scot, Will Turpin, John Seare of Eaton & Sam Pollard, the only poor Men there. Tansley also dined in the Kitchen with them. I told the Clark to give Notice that there would be no service in the afternoon, it snowing all day in the largest flakes I ever saw. Journal of The Rev William Cole (The Faber Book of Diaries, 1987)

Fearless Nadia

Lady with the whip hand

FEARLESS Nadia's trajectory from infancy in Edwardian Australia to queen of the Bombay screen seems hardly less fabulous than her roles in films like Miss Frontier Mail, Jungle Goddess, Hurricane Hunt or Miss Rohindabad. Nadia, who has died aged 88, was born Mary Evans in Perth, where her father Herbert Evans was serving with the British army. Her mother Margaret was a Greek immigrant. When Mary was three her father was posted to Bombay, and the family moved to Elephanta Caves Island. With the outbreak of the first world war, Herbert Evans was sent to France where, along with his two soldier brothers, he was killed. Left alone in Bombay, Margaret put Mary into a convent at a weekly boarder. The child's Saturday treat was to be taken to the movies, where she thrilled to the adventures of the silent serial queens Ruth Roland and Pearl White. In 1920 Margaret and Mary moved to the North West Frontier Province, where Mary became an enthusiastic horse rider, emulating the prowess of her screen idols. At 20 she returned to Bombay to work as a salesgirl and later secretary in the Army and Navy Stores. Worried about her weight, she enrolled in Madame Astor's ballet school. Very soon she was recruited to Madame's ballet company, and adopted the professional name of Nadia. The next few years were spent in circus and variety, developing both her acrobatic skills and her talent for singing Hindi songs. In 1934 she was introduced to the Wadia brothers of Wadia Movietone. The brothers, who had scandalised their illustrious shipbuilding family by giving up promising careers to go into movies, were intrigued by the novelty of casting this exotic, fair-skinned blonde in their action pictures. After trying her in a couple of supporting parts, in 1935 J.B.H. Wadia wrote a starring role for Nadia in Hunterwali (The Lady With the Whip). The film was shot cheaply in six weeks. Distributors were discouraged however to see a woman performing Douglas Fairbanks' acrobatic feats, swinging from chandeliers, fencing expertly and taking a bull-whip to villains. The Wadias were obliged to distribute the film themselves. It became the biggest grossing picture in Indian film history up to that time and launched Nadia as the star of a new genre of stunt films. In the next 25 years, Nadia made 55 films and established a unique place in Indian cinema. Indeed, with her combination of the attributes of Pearl White, Douglas Fairbanks, Tarzan, Zorro and Bruce Lee, she merits a place among the icons of world cinema. She had a fine figure, strong features, pale piercing eyes (they were blue, but her films were black-and-white) and cascading blonde hair. Her characteristic entrance was with one arm (or sometimes two, depending on what weaponry she was carrying) raised in the air and a shrill, challenging cry of "Hey!". She had an imitable, head-on-his swagger. She insisted on doing all her own stunts, which involved daredevil feats of horsemanship, leaping off buildings and trees and swinging on ropes, or any other convenient dangling objects. Nadia was always seen to be righting wrongs, defending the weak and opposing corrupt establishments. Above all she stood for the emancipation of women. At the height of India's independence movement, she was influential as the voice of tolerance and secularism: in Lootaru Lana (1937), for instance, she battles for Hindu-Muslim unity. By the 1940s the stunt film seemed to be going out of fashion, and Nadia's career was seriously threatened when she made the mistake of marrying a Hindu. The public would not support such an admission of weakness and demanded that the scene be cut. She had meanwhile left Wadia Movietone to join Homi Wadia, the younger of the brothers, in a new company, Essent Pictures. Homi triumphantly revived both Nadia's career and the popularity of the stunt film with Daughter of Hunterwali, a sequel to her first success. In the next decade she made a further 25 films. In 1959, at 51 (her published age was 49), she decided to retire, to devote herself to breeding racing thoroughbreds: her best-known horse was Nijinsky, greatest star of the Indian turf. In 1961 she married Homi Wadia. She made only one more screen appearance, in a 1969 spoof on James Bond films, Khilari. As a lively, forthright old lady with an Indian lilt to her speech, "Mary Mai" still fascinated her grandchildren and their cousins with her



Role model... Nadia adopts a typical pose in Diamond Queen

glamorous legend. A great-nephew, the talented young producer-director Riyad Vincha, made a memorabilia to her with his 1993 documentary Fearless Nadia: the Hunterwali Story. Nadia has also dedicated herself to retrieving and restoring Nadia's films, many are still to be seen.

David Egan Mary W (Fearless Nadia), actress, January 8, 1908; died Jan, 1996

Jackdaw



M&S world

MY FRIEND Diane likes to go unshopping. She goes from store to store, browsing in one day the purchases and packages of guilt accumulated over months. What is great about buying, she says, is also great about returning: you experience the emotional rush of handing over your charge card and you end up with a nice shopping bag. Unshopping provides something else. Unshopping rewards you with a credit so that you can shop some more. I know people who have returned evening gowns after the party, waltzes worn from wear and maternity clothes after the baby was

Beautiful folk

I ENNEW I'd get into the top 10. I think I'm just the kind of girl they'd want. I'm young, beautiful and I've got loads of energy. Anyone who has ever met me would understand why

Richs

TWO NEW jeans run into each other's street in Paris, very different Gi-venchy ties — much did you pay? — asks. "£500," she first. "I bought mine in the corner for £1,000." The "new Rus," she butt

Shopped... New Times

Shopped... New Times

Richs

ISTARTED modelling when I was 15 because so many people told me how beautiful I was. I come from Albania and I did fashion shows in Milan for an Albanian designer. Everywhere I've ever lived people have looked at me in the street; heads turn wherever I walk. It has never bothered me. It just makes me feel good. Often people ask me whether they've seen me on the cover of a magazine. Most people say I have great legs and a lovely smile, but what makes me stand out is my different looks. I'm not simply pretty — there is something striking and original about my face. Luljeta Venturi, 27, economist. Elle interviews the final 10 entrants who responded to the

Richs

of the latest crop of Russian jokes, as reported by Newsweek.

New input

BET YOU can't stand Points of View, can you? Or the sanctimonious-sounding voice-overs of artists who read out the letters... Ten minutes of your licence fee is used every week so Really Quite Put Out Actually of Tunbridge Wells can moan and groan about the lack of this or the excess of that or the inconsideration of the other. But part, admittedly a very small part, of their whingeing can be understood. The complaints are so obviously born out of frustration that you occasionally sympathise with these pitiful people. The feeling of impotence generated by not being able to make a blind bit of difference to what the BBC or ITV or Channel 4 tip down their optical sewers must be so overwhelming that they put pen to paper in the vain hope that what they say will Make A Difference. They are mistaken. The Web is Different. Like

TV, 95 per cent of what's

TV, 95 per cent of what's this is crap, but you, yes you in your two-up two-down middle-of-nowhere semi, can do something about it. All you need is a modicum of intelligence, a computer, a text editor and access to the Internet (a small amount of money is an optional extra). With all of these things you can create your own Web pages, like being able to produce your own TV show only without the expense, hassle and business headaches. It's a fun, it's educational and it could earn you some money. You never know your luck. Richard Longhurst proselytises for the World Wide Web in the introduction to, net magazine's How To Make Light of HTML: The plain English guide to creating your own Web site.

Dan Glaister

Jackdaw wants your jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171 718 4966; write Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

Whit hedge, Norwich door poli

سكان الامل



Accountants urge the Government to get tough with the fraudsters



ACCOUNTANTS yesterday called on the Government to establish an independent fraud advisory panel and to make it easier to prosecute fraudsters in an attempt to counter a crime which is estimated to cost industry £10 billion a year.

Accountants urge the Government to get tough with the fraudsters. The Institute of Chartered Accountants, whose delegates met in London yesterday, wants it to be a legal duty for industry regulators to report suspected fraud and suggests there should be a re-examination of the role of auditors.

Although larcenies hit the headlines, it is estimated that most loss less than £10,000. The Institute believes that the message has been made easier to commit by technological changes and corporate restructuring which has tended to remove layers of management control.

Sainsbury top job split but changes too slow for critics

SAINSBURY yesterday bowed to savage criticism of its dismal 1995 trading performance by splitting the roles of chairman and chief executive, both held by David Sainsbury. Mr Sainsbury will become executive chairman, with two chief executives responsible for the group's day-to-day operations, in response to prolonged institutional pressure.



Adriano... Chief-in-waiting

Under the reorganisation, which takes effect from the beginning of April, responsibilities at the top will be divided according to businesses. Mr Vyner will become chief executive of the UK supermarket business, including the Savacentre hypermarket operation.

Mr Sainsbury said yesterday that the group was now too diverse for him to retain the sole role at the top, but the supermarket business was still so dominant that it needed a dedicated chief executive.

Kingfisher sortie into France again

RETAILING group Kingfisher, which includes Woolworths and Comet, is buying a 20 per cent stake in French furniture and electrical retailer BUT for £59.3 million in cash. Kingfisher's French electrical chain Darty is the purchaser. BUT is France's fourth largest electrical chain with a 5.1 per cent market share.

53pc rise for Compass chief

FRANCIS MACKAY, chief executive of Compass, the UK's largest contract caterer, received a 53 per cent rise in his remuneration package for 1995.

Bumper Christmas trading

FURTHER evidence of bumper Christmas trading was provided yesterday when both Whitbread and Next reported that business was significantly up on last year.

Pension geared to truckers

BRITAIN'S lorry drivers will have access to a personal pension plan tailored for their needs. From today, members of the United Road Transport Union will be able to open a plan provided by Scottish Amicable.

EC fines German drugs firm

THE European Commission slapped a £2.4 million fine on Germany's Bayer for breaching European competition laws. It said the chemical giant had restricted sales of its Adalat heart drug in an effort to protect higher prices charged for the product on the British market.

Film box office record

CINEMA box office records were smashed last weekend with takings grossing more than £7.2 million - some £80,000 higher than the previous peak in July 1993 when takings soared thanks to the hype surrounding Jurassic Park.

Japan finds finance minister

JAPAN'S prime minister-in-waiting, Ryutaro Hashimoto, in a final effort to complete his prospective cabinet, yesterday reportedly found a taker for the finance portfolio, a once-coveted post that is now a political hot seat.

Japanese import 30pc bre vehicles GM leads drive East

FOREIGN carmakers have enjoyed a record year in Japan with sales rising almost 30 per cent to 388,162 vehicles, thanks to the strong yen and increasing acceptance by consumers of foreign products. Imports rose to more than 10 per cent of the passenger car market and Japanese industry is predicting further increases as the big US manufacturers produce cars tailored to Japanese roads.

British luxury carmaker makes inroads in US A Rolls is top prescription

LUXURY car company Rolls-Royce put a fresh twist on doctor's pay yesterday when it revealed that the medical profession was one of its fastest-growing sources of custom. Not in this country, however, but in the US, where the makers of the Silver Dawn and the Silver Spur enjoyed a 25 per cent surge in sales last year.

Booming computer sales put Dixons on a roll

Table with columns for Stock market value, Share price, Workforce, and Retail sales (Dixons, Currys, PC World, The Link, Other retailers) comparing 1994 and 1995.

A further seven stores were opened in the six-month period, bringing the total to 27. More are in the pipeline. At least that indicates Dixons appears to have been selling the right products at the right time. The downside is that the huge success of personal computers has thrown the rest of the business into sharp relief.

The Underside Dan Atkinson

HOW appropriate that the ING Baring Novices Chase at Sandown Park should have included among the favourites Simple Arithmetic and Mr Pickpocket. Sadly, neither featured in the show-down, although Clever Remark did manage third place.

OLDFATHERS (1)

That architect-designed millionaire's pad on the north Devon coast - property of Treasury wise-man and Goldman Sachs economist Gavin Davies - caused consternation for a Bank of England official taking a stroll on a nearby path.

OLDFATHERS (2)

There is talk that the Bank may appoint a journalist to replace Juliette Bealey when she leaves the press office to join the International Monetary Fund in Washington. Officials are looking for journalists who are economically literate, able to keep a secret and prepared to work for £30,000 or less.

High Courts switch of street signs

The London Borough of Camden, apparently in result of a tidying-up exercise for borough boundaries, where next on the Reg's mystery tour? Tower Hiltop?

BABY-BEANG

Shoppers debate to avoid supermarket queues should look forward eagerly to the introduction of the not-too-distant future. The technology is in-birth at searching out bargains on the shopping, with the proviso - should the laser beam hit possible nappies, the an is blocked.

QUEENS Most Buses

The hotels toup whose £1 billion property was down the early 1990s pushed it to the brink of collapse, has seen reborn as Britain's first environmental concept major hotel chain.

Motorola tumbles as cell phones cost more to make

ANALYSTS attributed the volatility to over-ordering of components by personal computer makers in anticipation of strong sales at Christmas.

WERE it seems

A little unfair in our item last week on the book Financial Services: Regulating Investment Business, by City solicitor Simon Morris.

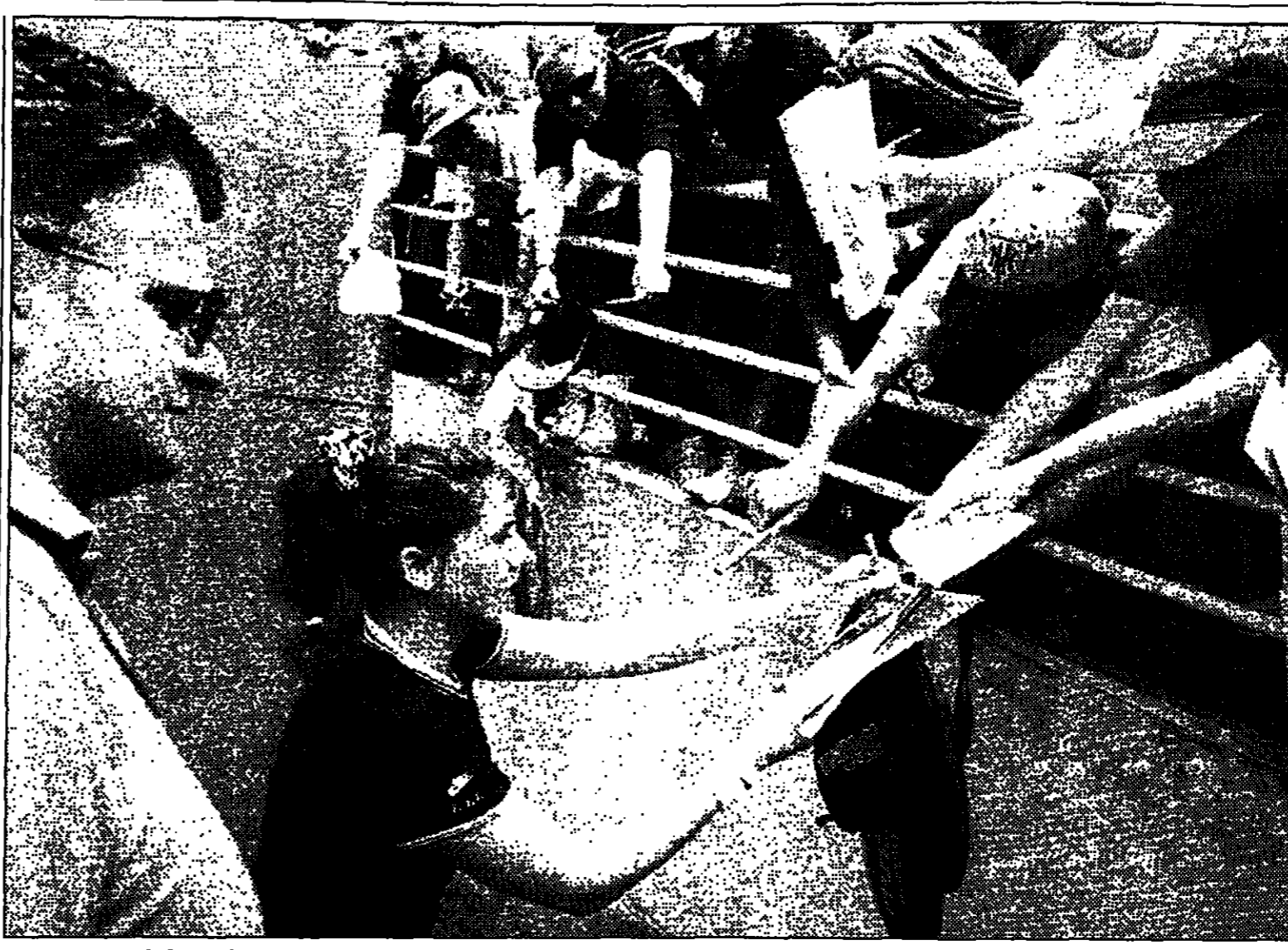
One M... Win ma... by loge

Top job changes critics

One Man's win marred by logo row

JOHN HALES, the owner of One Man, yesterday called for clear guidelines over sponsorship and described as "stupid" the obscuring of his company's logo by One Man's King George victory last Saturday.

Golden Bear jacket on Saturday and sympathise with George Ward, who puts a lot of money into the sport.



Game, set and minder... Seles signs autographs yesterday under the watchful gaze of her personal bodyguard

PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID GRAY/REUTERS

SPORTS NEWS 13

Tennis Seles draws Sydney crowd

SECURITY was tight and business was brisk yesterday as Monica Seles played her first match in Australia for three years.

Rusedski powers on with victory in record time

GREG RUSEDSKI set a tournament record yesterday by speeding to victory in under 25 minutes. The British No. 1 white-washed Carsten Arriens of Germany 6-0, 6-0 in the second round of the Peters International event in Sydney.

Pete Sampras, who pulled out of this week's Colonial Classic warm-up event at Kooyong with flu, is determined to play in next week's Australian Open.

year-old American enjoyed a thorough work-out lasting almost three hours before beating Rafael in three tie-break sets.

Wetherby with form guide

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details (e.g., 1.50 Simply Dashing, 1.20 Lamborough, 1.50 Scotch Bank).

Wincanton runners and riders

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details (e.g., 1.50 Simply Dashing, 1.20 Lamborough, 1.50 Scotch Bank).

Lingfield all-weather flat card

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details (e.g., 1.00 Inherent Magic, 1.20 Star Talent, 2.00 Expulsive Power).

Results

Table with 2 columns: Race number and results (e.g., 1.10 (11-2) DUBLIN FLYER (5) (20) J. Foster 10-11-10, 401 RIPP-LUSTY LIGHT (20) (20) J. Pinner 10-11-10).

on a roll

tumbles as cell cost more to make

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14 SPORTS NEWS

The Venables Saga

Candidates for the national firing line

Martin Thorpe on the bookies' favourites for the position of England coach

THE problem with finding a new England manager is not so much who will get the job as who will get there...

Kevin Keegan has made it known that he would be reluctant to go through the mangle. But if the main contestants to replace Venables have one advantage in dealing with these pressures...

reimbursed. This time two managers could be found in that position but both can be discounted. Jack Charlton, although a World Cup winner, is too old and too negative in his footballing philosophy...



Kevin Keegan



Bryan Robson



Gerry Francis



Ray Wilkins



Glenn Hoddle

THE leading candidate, simply because of his amazing achievements at Newcastle. Generally deemed a smashing champion, PR dream and astute motivator...

IMPECCABLE credentials as former England captain, capped 90 times; learned managerial trade under Alex Ferguson at Manchester United and currently proving wrong those who tipped Middlesbrough for relegation from Premier League...

ANOTHER former England captain. Tottenham's third place in the Premiership has proved he can succeed at top level. Puts winning ahead of entertaining, but his management skills are legendary...

SINGLED out as a leader at the top level when he became Chelsea captain at 18. He is the ultimate "good bloke". Won '84 England cap and played for Manchester United, AC Milan and Paris St Germain...

ANOTHER England regular as a player, though not as often as many felt his sublime skills deserved. Led Swindon to promotion through the play-offs before forming an unlikely partnership with Ken Bates at Chelsea...

COCA-COLA CUP QUARTER-FINALS

Arsenal 2, Newcastle United 0

Benches in uproar as Ginola walks

Russell Thomas KEVIN KEEGAN may be the people's choice to succeed Terry Venables, but Arsenal inflicted a dent in the Newcastle manager's reputation with victory through Ian Wright's fierce shot just before half-time and another a minute from the end at Highbury last night...

after injury of Bergkamp, Platt and Bould, a triumvirate central to their club's aspirations this season. Home hopes were further fuelled in a high-octane opening 10 minutes in which Arsenal launched three assaults...

Just outside Arsenal's area. Ginola's despair was soon shared by all his colleagues, especially Srnicek. A pass from Jensen appeared to pose only routine danger when it found Wright on the right side of Newcastle's area...



Star in stripes... Newcastle's Steve Watson finds a few inches on Arsenal's Nigel Winterburn at Highbury last night

Aston Villa 1, Wolverhampton Wanderers 0

Villa stretched for record

Stephen Bierley HAVING taken two managers, Graham Taylor and his caretaker Bobby Downes, to get this far in the Coca-Cola Cup, Wolverhampton Wanderers finally departed under boss No. 3 Mark McGhee...

send: both were unmarked. Wolves were never going to be overwhelmed. A lot has happened since the dark, dead days of the Taylor regime, and the players now bristle with purpose and self-belief...

middle and hit a shot which took a deflection and almost defeated Bosnich, who could not hold on to the ball. That clearly lifted Wolves and they continued to attack with gusto.

Results

Table of football results including Soccer, Endleigh League, Bell's Scottish League, and Scottish League.

Leeds United 2, Reading 1

Speed peps up Leeds

IT IS more by good luck than judgment that Leeds United this morning find themselves in the last four of the cup. But for the defensive shortcomings which have become so prominent...

in the wrong half of the First Division had little to fear as Leeds prodded patiently rather than probed intelligently. Reading actually scored so many goals as to be unthinkable...

Leeds supporters have always enjoyed voting with their feet and the sorry sight of thousands of vacant seats said much about a season of so far unfulfilled promise.

It could have got worse for Yorkshire's premier club when 14 minutes later Morley intercepted Wetherall's awful crossfield pass and scampered goalwards.

Snowline

24hr skiing information direct from major resorts 0891 333 541. For a faxed report, dial from a phone connected to a fax machine 0891 662 255.

Drug-test defender Stanislaus is suspended by Leyton Orient

DOGER STANISLAUS, the Leyton Orient defender charged with misconduct by the Football Association after a drug test, has been suspended on full pay by the club.

The Brazilian striker Jaridel flew in to Glasgow last night to discuss a move from the South American champions Gremlin to Rangers. The Scottish champions are likely to raise the £2-£3 million fee by selling Oleg Salenko.

Fixtures

Table of upcoming football fixtures for various leagues.

Table Tennis

EUROPEAN OLYMPIC QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT (Manchester) Stage one Group eight starts in 10.00 on 11th.

Ice Hockey

WHL Boston 0, Colorado 3 New Jersey 4, St Louis 2, NY Islanders 3 Chicago 3 (6th), Philadelphia 2, Anaheim 2 (6th), Edmonton 1, Hartford 2.

Cricket

ONE-DAY MATCH (Sydney) West Indies 243-6 (50 overs), N. Helder 100, S. Williams 82, G. Grant 58, D. Lille 44, J. Adams 10, M. Waugh 55, S. Waugh 56 Australia A won by 20, 100 runs.

Rugby League

STONES CENTENARY CHAMPIONSHIP Warrington 24, Warrington 16, Leeds 28, Oldham 20, First Division Warrington 16, Whitehaven 14, Wakefield 14, Batley 10, Bradford 10, Bradford 10, Hull 10, Hull 10, Hull 10, Hull 10.

Advertisement for Ski Sport at The Guardian, featuring a logo and contact information.



Australians welcome back Seles, page 13  
Coca-Cola Cup semi-finals, page 14

Scotland shuffle their forwards, page 15  
IAAF close to Modahl decision, page 15

# Sports Guardian

## ENGLAND SOCCER COACH BOWS TO THE PRESSURES OF IMPENDING LEGAL ACTIONS



Weight off his mind... Terry Venables leaves Lancaster Gate after making official his decision to stand down before qualifying begins for the next World Cup PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

# Venables spares FA blushes

David Lacey examines why the England coach gave himself no option but to stand down after the European Championship

**T**ERRY VENABLES will quit as England coach after the European Championship in order to spend more time with his lawyers, leaving the Football Association to reconsider the wisdom of appointing him in the first place. There is also the small matter of finding someone to take over the squad for the next World Cup. Having intimated to the FA before Christmas, and shortly before the draw for Euro '96 was made in Birmingham, that he did not want to remain in charge of the England squad for the 1996 World Cup qualifiers, Venables has now confirmed his departure.

Last night he said he had decided to step down after the European Championship to save the FA embarrassment. He confirmed that the weight of litigation had been behind the decision. "I felt that in the circumstances what I've got ahead could be problematical," he said. "We would have a World Cup qualifying game around October or November and I would be in court for several weeks. I think it's maybe a bit of an embarrassment to the FA, but in the circumstances I have made the decision and it gives them time to get somebody else."

It is clear that after his courtroom experiences so far, Venables realised he could not go into the next World Cup serving two benches — England team and High Court. When questioned yesterday about the choice of Graham Taylor's successor, Kelly said that anybody could apply hindsight, and he added: "The vast majority of you here today applauded the decision at the time." From a

the "progress which the England team and England's football in general have made since his appointment". Really? So far as Venables' England team are concerned it has to be hoped that the best is yet to come. As for English football in general, well, the recent performances in Europe have hardly offered the prospect of a new golden age. The reality is that although Venables has been England

he has enhanced may feel the need to give him a decent send-off. As to the next England coach, who knows? The book-makers dusted off the familiar betting list once Venables' impending departure was confirmed, with Kevin Keegan at the top followed by Bryan Robson, who is part of Venables' backroom team, Howard Wilkinson, Gerry Francis and Ray Wilkins. Glenn Hoddle's credentials are bound to put him among the front runners as well. Whoever is persuaded to take the job will surely need no reminding that running the England team is not merely a matter of winning football matches and qualifying for the major tournaments. It also involves the ability to live with intensive press coverage which ranges from the merely critical to the downright abusive — and, in Venables' case, with a prolonged campaign of calumny experienced by none of his predecessors, not even Bobby Robson or Graham Taylor.

*'In October or November I could be in court for several weeks'*

win the European Championship. "I don't think it's possible to continue after Euro '96," he added. "Obviously I would want to leave the job on a successful note and I will do everything in my power to make it successful."

judgment on Venables as England coach must be reserved until after the European Championship. It could be that on June 30 Tony Adams will stride up the Bobby Moore steps at Wembley to receive the trophy while Venables walks quietly towards the tunnel accompanied by strains of "Will ye no come back again?"

coach for two years there has been no competitive yardstick, apart from the Umbro Cup, by which his international qualities can be judged. The European Championship will prove the point one way or the other. Remembering how successful England were in the 1990 World Cup, which they entered knowing that Bobby Robson was about to take a job with PSV Eindhoven, yesterday's news may even be the happiest English omen for Euro '96 so far. Venables, with nothing much to lose from a footballing point of view, may be all the better for it.

## 'If left alone he'd have been OK'

**IAN STOTT**  
FA councillor, seen as being anti-Venables  
"I am on his side. I was a very strong proponent of his selection in the first place; he has my support then and I still think he is the right person for the job."  
**FRED VENABLES**  
Father  
"If people had left him alone to do his job then he'd have been okay. The England job was everything but if he can't get on with it then he'll just say 'Bye-bye.'"  
**GRAHAM TAYLOR**  
Former England manager  
"If there was anything outside of being able to fully concentrate on the job in hand, I think it would be very difficult,

perhaps impossible, to do the job in hand."  
**CRAIG BROWN**  
Scotland manager  
"I have the utmost respect for Terry as a coach and that's all that matters; I am not concerned about off the field."  
**ALAN BALL**  
Manchester City manager  
"It's a shame for English football. You need continuity at the top level as you do at club level and to keep changing and changing does not do anybody any good."  
**GRAHAM KELLY**  
FA chief executive  
"It's sad that a highly regarded and very inventive football coach who has done well should feel it necessary to reach the decision he has."

**BOBBY GOULD**  
Wales manager  
"The circumstances are that the FA knew what was happening when they took him on and knew the situation all along."  
**TONY KERSHAW**  
Chairman National Fed of Supporters' Clubs  
"I am sickened by what has happened and I know I speak for the majority of football fans. I don't know anyone who has a bad word to say about Venables and the work he is doing."  
**KATE HOEY**  
Labour MP  
"The decision of the England coach not to seek a new contract is in the best interests of himself and English football."

## Out of a job and spoiling for the fight

Martin Thorpe on the struggles ahead once the coach has served his notice

**W**HEN Graham Taylor was appointed England manager, Terry Venables was not even on the shortlist. When Venables was mooted as Taylor's successor two years ago, the Football Association's chairman Sir Bert Millichip said: "Over my dead body."

On both occasions the English game's governing body was saying, in effect, that Venables was too much of a wide-boy businessman to risk in the job. Now those doubts have come back to haunt it. But, just as the need for a winning England side forced the FA to change its mind over Venables, so his desire to clear his name has changed his mind over the importance of the one job he always wanted. Venables is out to prove his innocence and, such is his immense determination, anyone in the way had better watch out. Of course the FA knew what it was taking on when it hired Venables. His peers deemed him the best man for the job and the FA's doubts over his business life were reflected in his title of "coach" instead of the more ambassadorial "manager". But those concerns had been overtaken by a more pressing need after Taylor: to create a successful England team. For various political reasons the European governing body Uefa was on the FA's back to improve the performances of a side that had just failed to qualify for the World Cup. Venables was revered as a coach and immediately available. The FA bit the bullet and hoped it would not explode in its face. It did not have to wait long to find out. Venables was appointed on January 28 1994. On January 30 news emerged that Venables was being investigated by the Department of Trade and Industry. The sight of Venables leaving a court to attend an England team announcement became a reality, a juxtaposition that did nothing for the game's image nor Venables' ability to concentrate on the job or, indeed, on defending himself in the courts. The non-football distractions have been numerous; civil actions for the recovery

of alleged unpaid bills, non-stop allegations in the media, disappearing dance floors, bung inquiries and now DTI proceedings to bar him as a company director. Now he has given himself the time and space to prove his innocence and to take on his most substantial foe: Alan Sugar. When Sugar dismissed Venables as chief executive of Tottenham he may have felt that, like many people, the then darling of White Hart Lane would go quietly, without a whimper. He did not know Terry Venables. Venables is not only proud but obstinate. He feels he has been wronged in a big way and is out to prove it. "People could say, 'Right, I'm not going to fight any more,'" says Venables, "but people would say, 'Oh, he's gully.' I've been brought up to fight my corner when I think things are going wrong. I have a fighting spirit." "The alternative would be to throw it in. It would be cheaper perhaps but I've got to live with myself the rest of my life."

Venables's business associate Eddie Ashby has compiled a massive dossier of papers relating to Venables's business dealings during the Tottenham era, a This is Your Life of evidence which the Venables camp believe will vindicate them from all allegations. But, most importantly to them, it will, they believe, prove a conspiracy against Venables. During a recent court case the coach for the first time publicly alleged that the conspiracy was linked to Tottenham. The Recorder in the case disagreed and the Sugar camp have always denied that they are part of a conspiracy against Venables or that they have been leaking damaging documents to various sections of the media. Venables was heavily restrained by what he could say publicly because of his position and the fact that a lot of the evidence which Ashby holds in his files comes from the process of discovery, which can be made public only at the time of the trial for which it was handed over. So, come October, when Sugar's case for libel against Venables is heard, the England coach will be able to have his full say about what he believes has been perpetrated against him. And, as of yesterday, he can do so without having to worry what his bosses think about it.

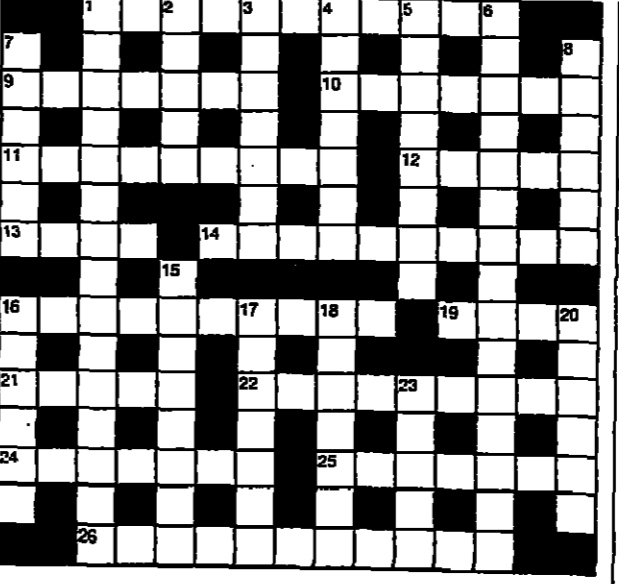
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## Guardian Crossword No 20,546

Set by Chifonie



- Across**
- 1 Hold no brief for visit by conductor (4,7)
  - 9 Class acquires butcher's pan (7)
  - 10 Inebriate leftie is back in the playing area (7)
  - 11 Appearing to escort quiet primate (4,5)
  - 12 Get to deliver a sermon — but not quietly (5)
  - 13 Archer turns back chap (4)
  - 14 Doomed traders contrived to be sick beforehand (3-7)
  - 16 Whens crooked landlords should be (5,4)
  - 19 Grow dizzy initially in some sultry West Indian motel (4)
  - 21 Force the little devil to back the French (5)
  - 22 Revolutionary is renting us accommodation (9)
- Down**
- 24 For example, Bob's hard manner hurt one's feelings (7)
  - 25 Instrument bore hot alloy (7)
  - 26 Period of crisis is of, perhaps, future significance (5,6)
- Solution tomorrow**
- 1 Don't prevaricate — stop to think — cite after analysis (5,2,3,5)
  - 2 A sailor made up a set of charts (5)
  - 3 Game student left after having to earn a degree (7)
  - 4 Washerwoman loses the French strip (7)
  - 5 Force something through two different ways (8)
  - 6 Oldie drank water, collapsed, and was soaked (4,7,7,2)
  - 7 Fly from the northern band to another direction (9)

**CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,546**

8 Mythical monster took cover in plant (8)  
15 Standpost endlessly sustained by a vessel of the church (8)  
16 Spoil opening bat's match (8)  
17 React to black, tough tissue in meat — cut the top off (7)  
18 Teacher turns up with German dish (7)  
20 The scheme satisfied the carrier (6)  
23 Steward makes first wife trail about (5)

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Chief Medical Officer's Warning

**Through the media we achieve a fantasy of closeness. We see everything. We watch. We observe. We know so much about them that it's scary. We should not be shocked, therefore, that occasionally some loony goes too far.**

Suzanne Moore

سكنا من الامل